

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

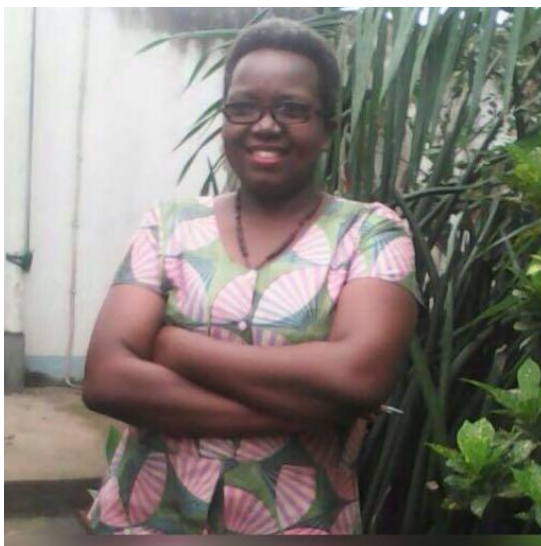
Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



"Is a member of the Inter-African Union of Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and has special consultative status to the ECOSOC"

*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°223 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights
"ITEKA"*

Week from 13- 19 July 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 19 July 2020, Iteka has documented at least 557 cases of enforced disappearances.

<i>CONTENTS</i>	<i>PAGES</i>
<i>ACRONYMS</i>	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS, VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i>	5
<i>I.1. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	5
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING</i>	6
<i>I.3 PERSONS ARBITRARILY ARRESSES BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS</i>	6
<i>I.4. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</i>	7
<i>II. VIOLATION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS</i>	8
<i>III. SECURITY FACTS</i>	10
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i>	12

ACRONYMS

CECI	: <i>Communal Electoral Independent Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
FRODEBU	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National progress</i>
VOA	: <i>Voice of America</i>

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 5 corpses, 1 person abducted, 3 persons victims of GBV and 11 persons arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims are 1 woman and 2 minors killed.

Imbonerakure affiliated to CNDD-FDD party, 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, abductions and arbitrary arrest in the country.

This bulletin also looks at threats, intimidation, intolerance against CNL party members and a grenade attack.

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 Bubanza commune and province

On July 16, 2020, around 10:00 p.m., in Kizungu quarter, near Bubanza province city, Bubanza commune and province, a body of Louis Nyanzira, aged 68, a watchman, was found at his workplace. According to sources on site, residents near the locality say they heard the victim crying for help and when they went to see what it was, they found him already dead. According to the same sources, three suspicious people were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

A body found in Mugamba commune, Bururi province

On July 13, 2020, on Munini hill, Kivumu zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province, a body of Nimubona, aged 60, was discovered not far from his home. According to sources on site, the circumstances of the death remain unknown and the victim's son was arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

A body found in Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province

On July 14, 2020, around 7:00 a.m., on Munanira hill and zone, Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province, a body of 21-year-old Anitha Nshimirimana was found in a bush. According to sources on site, the body showed signs of strangulation and had been burned with gasoline. The victim had been missing since July 6, 2020 but the corpse had not yet decomposed, showing that the victim had been held hostage for several days. According to the same sources, Roger Havyarimana, Pastor of the Pentecostal Church in Munanira was arrested by the police and taken to the provincial police station cell in Karuzi for investigation.

A body found in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

As of July 14, 2020, near the road to the locality between Mivo and Kibimba hills in Mabanda commune, Makamba province, a body of a man between 25 and 30 years old was found. According to sources on site, the victim was killed with a machete and a bloody club found right next to his body. According to the same sources, the victim was not identified because his face was stained from the beatings inflicted on him. The police say they have started investigations to find out the perpetrators and the reason.

A body of a minor found in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 13, 2020 indicates that on July 11, 2020, in the morning, on Ragwe hill, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, a body of Akimana, aged 10 years, was found in the swamps. According to sources on site, the victim's body showed signs of having been slaughtered by unidentified people.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

A person reported missing in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 18, 2020 indicates that on July 3, 2020, in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Christophe Ntabaresha, employee of the Afritextile company, accounting department, was reported missing. According to sources on site, he left his work on July 3, 2020 and he did not arrive at his home located in Kinanira in Musaga urban zone. According to the same sources, his family informed the Afritextile company of Christophe's disappearance and searched in different cells of Bujumbura Mairie but in vain.

1.3 PERSONS ARBITRARILY ARRESSESSED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Two members of CNL party arrested in Kayanza commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 13, 2020 indicates that on June 24, 2020, on Muvumu hill, Kabuye zone, Kayanza commune and province, Roger Habimana, native of Ntarambo hill, Kayanza commune, member of CNL party and elected to the communal council was arrested and detained in the SNR cell then taken to the police station cell in Kayanza.

On July 14, 2020, on Kibingo hill, Kayanza commune and province, Albert Sinzumunsi, mason and native of this hill, member of CNL party and elected to the communal council in the 2020 elections, was arrested when he was heading to his work. According to sources on site, he was jailed in Kayanza police station cell.

These two CNL party members were arrested by SNR agents on the orders of Ferdinand Habimana, secretary of CNDD-FDD party in Kayanza and Jean Marie Manirakiza, communal administrator of Kayanza.

According to the same sources, the reasons for these arrests are linked to the vote of the new administrator of Kayanza commune. Members of the ruling party fear they will not win the vote of the new administrator scheduled for July 24, 2020 given that CNDD-FDD has 22 seats, CNL 21 seats and FRODEBU 5 seats.

A member of CNL party arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 13, 2020 indicates that on July 12, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Nsengiyumva, aged 26, member of CNL party and seller of brochettes near Buhiga hospital, was arrested, beaten up, then taken to Buhiga police cell by a group of Imbonerakure including Robert, Elysée and Anicet commanded by Gervais nicknamed Colonel Meja, head of this hill. According to sources on site, this hill head arrived aboard a motorbike and those who were there shouted "korereri meja arashitse" (Colonel Meja arrives) and the victim repeated these words, this hill head directly accused him of cursing him by twisting these words to qualify him as "Umumenja" (a criminal). The next morning, these Imbonerakure accompanied by the hill head went to the police office and ordered him to pay a sum of 40,000 Bif and the police released him.

A member of CNL party arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On July 10, 2020, on Rwibikara hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, Rénovât Nshimirimana, member of CNL party and candidate for the hill elections was arrested by Ndibanje and Ndayisenga, both Imbonerakure. According to local sources, he was accused of contempt of President Évariste Ndayishimiye. According to the same sources, he was jailed in Busoni commune cell.

Three CNL party members arrested in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 19, 2020 indicates that on July 11, 2020, on Kiyonza hill, Bugabira commune, Gervais Ndibanje, Édouard Hitimana and Jérémie, members of CNL party were arrested in a bar “Chez Kabura” by Marc Rwaswa and Fidèle Cinditse, all Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the reason for their arrest is to have listened to VOA radio suspended in the Burundian territory. According to the same sources, the victims were jailed in Bugabira commune cell and were accused of complicity with the enemy.

Four persons arrested in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 13, 2020 indicates that on July 11, 2020, on Muhuzu hill in Minago zone, Rumonge commune and province, Gérard Buname, Emmanuel Butoyi, François Nyandwi and Samson Ndayisaba, all faithful of the Revival Church in Africa were arrested during prayer by Michel Ndikuriyo, head of SNR in Rumonge province. According to sources on site, they were accused of holding a meeting aimed at destabilizing security and were jailed at Rumonge police station.

1.4. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 13, 2020 indicates that on July 3, 2020, on Ndava-Busongo hill, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, A.N., aged 17, was raped by Lambert Bizimana, 18 years old. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator called the victim in a house under construction and he raped her. According to the same sources, Lambert Bizimana was arrested and taken to the communal police station in Gihanga and then transferred to Bubanza prison.

A girl raped in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 13, 2020 indicates that on July 12, 2020, on Gihanga hill and commune, Bubanza province, J.P.N., aged 6, was raped by Claude Irankunda, house worker, 23 years old. According to sources on site, the victim went to the house where the alleged perpetrator was working and was then raped. The victim was taken to Bubanza hospital and the alleged perpetrator was arrested.

A boy raped in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 13, 2020 indicates that on July 9, 2020, in village IV, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, K.C., aged 9, was sodomized by Eric Niyonkuru, aged 18 years. According to sources on site, K. was accused by the alleged perpetrator of beating his dog. The victim was transferred to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura Mairie. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Gihanga Police Station cell.

II. VIOLATION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

On the eve of the hill council elections scheduled for August 2020, members of opposition political parties and civil society are being removed from candidate lists in different provinces of the country, sometimes with reasons.

The following cases were noted by the Iteka League:

In Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 19, 2020 indicates that all the candidates of CNL party in the 2020 hill elections were removed from the lists in Bubanza commune and province by CECI Bubanza in collaboration with CNDD party officials. FDD in this commune. According to sources on site, some names and respective hills of these members have been recorded: Gilbert Butoyi and Didace Ngendakumana from centre ville hill, Athanase Niyonkuru and Honoré from Ngara hill, Déo Bikorimana from Muramba hill, Donatien Minani from Rabiho hill, Fulgence, Thierry and Alexis from Mitakataka hill.

In Bujumbura rural province

Members of the opposition and civil society in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province struck off the list of candidates for the 2020 hill council elections.

- Michel Bigirimana, from Nyamugari hill, member of CNL party. He was accused of adultery and drunkenness against the population;
- Claude Gahinyuza, from Nyamugari hill, member of CNL party. He was accused of not participating in community development work and Sangwe cooperative;
- Bonithe Barancira, from Kibira hill, member of CNL party. He was charged with adultery and non-participation in community development work;
- Venant Kanerwa Mugoyi hill, member of FRODEBU party. He has been accused of embezzling communal property in collecting taxes on goods sold, although there is no criminal case against him.

As of July 17, 2020, CECI Mugongo-Manga, Bujumbura rural province in collaboration with hill candidates from Jenda rural of CNDD-FDD party of the aforesaid hill have removed from the list of hill candidates of members of opposition parties for the 2020 hill council elections. This decision was taken after a letter to CECI President Mugongo-Manga to remove members of opposition political parties and civil society from the list was sent dated June 9, 2020 by members of CNDD-FDD party committee on Jenda rural and urban Jenda hills.

Members of opposition parties and civil society removed from the lists:

- Deogratias Ntiroranya, from Jenda rural hill, member of CNL party. He was accused of not participating in community work and in the work of Sangwe hill cooperatives;
- Gaudance Niyonzima, from Jenda rural hill, member of UPRONA party. She was accused of refusing to participate in community work and the work of Sangwe cooperatives;

- Pamphile Zidona, Ernest Ndikumana, Patrice Ndikumana, all members of CNL party. They were accused of not participating in community work on Jenda rural hill;
- Aimé Nzirorera, from urban Jenda hill, member of CNL party. He was accused of drunkenness in front of the population and embezzlement of the goods of the commune by distributing water to households on urban Jenda hill;
- Pierre Claver Nzeyimana, from Nyarushanga hill, member of CNL party. He was accused of refusing to participate in the work of Sangwe cooperative;
- Jean Marie Nkurunziza, from Nyarushanga hill, member of CNL party. He was accused of sowing hatred among the people of this hill;
- Joselyne Niyonkuru, from urban Jenda hill, civil society activist from Dushirehamwe association. She was accused of not participating in community work and in the work of Sangwe cooperative.

In Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, members of CNL party were removed from the lists of hill candidates for the 2020 hill council elections after meetings held by the head of CNDD-FDD party in this commune.

Out of 130 hill candidates registered in the 32 hills of Mutimbuzi commune for the 2020 hill council elections, one hundred and twenty-nine (129) members of CNL party were removed from the lists of candidates by CECI Mutimbuzi. According to sources on site, these members were removed from the lists by CECI Mutimbuzi in collaboration with members of CNDD-FDD party including Elysée Nindorera, head of CNDD-FDD party in Mutimbuzi commune.

According to the same sources, on July 5, 2020, Elysée Nindorera, organized meetings of CNDD-FDD party in all zones of Mutimbuzi commune to analyze the strategy of removing these members of CNL party from the lists of candidates for the hill elections.

In Rubirizi zone, the meeting took place at 7:00 am, to Eric's, in the place called Ku Gikoma;

In Maramvya zone, the meeting took place at 9:00 am, at Raymond's house at the 14th street;

In Gatumba zone, the meeting took place at 11:00 am, at CNDD-FDD party office in Kajaga;

In Rukaramu zone, the meeting took place at 8:00 am, at CNDD-FDD party office in Kajaga.

In these meetings were present the members of the hill committee of CNDD-FDD party, the local officials and all the candidates for the hill elections from CNDD-FDD party.

In Karuzi province

In Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Viola Haragirimana from Rwingoma hill on the list of hill candidates was removed from the list accused of having left CNDD-FDD to join UPRONA party. On Ramvya hill, Rutonganikwa zone, Buhiga commune, Habarugira, member of CNL party, was also removed from the list. According to sources on site, these candidates were removed from the electoral lists by CECI Buhiga on the order of the CNDD-FDD party leader in this commune.

III. SECURITY FACTS

A CNL party member injured in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On July 17, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., on Mburabuturo sub-hill, Cendajuru hill and zone, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, Déo Gataretse, member of CNL party was shot with an arrow and wounded in the right arm by unidentified people when he returned home near Karikurubu's house. According to sources on site, he was hospitalized in Kirundo hospital. According to the same sources, Deo had been threatened by Imbonerakure that he would be killed if he did not join CNDD-FDD party.

Political intolerance in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province

On July 13, 2020, Thérance Misigaro, aged 36, from Muyebe hill and zone, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province, member of CNL party who was removing two coffee trees to expand the foundation of his house, saw a hill agronomist who made him pay a ransom of 10,000 Bif under the order of Jean Bosco Nduwayo, president of CNDD-FDD party from the same hill. According to sources on site, the next day, he started to build the foundation and he received a call from the administrator banning him to build on this plot. According to the same sources, Adrien Ntunzwenimana, administrator of Nyabihanga commune dispatched four Imbonerakure and the president of CNDD-FDD party to demolish the foundation in case of refusal. The inhabitants of the locality link this to political intolerance since even this administrator destroyed a whole field of coffee trees of the commune where he is building his house.

A newborn baby killed in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province.

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 15, 2020 indicates that on July 1, 2020, on Mugerera hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province, Jeanine Irakoze gave birth to a girl and strangled her, packed in a bag and put it under her bed. According to sources on site, she intended to take it into a river to throw it there. According to the same sources, on July 4, 2020, she was imprisoned at Mbuye brigade and then transferred to Muramvya prosecutor's office, on July 9, 2020.

Grenade attack in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On July 14, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., at 12th avenue n ° 1, Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, unidentified men on board a motorcycle threw a grenade without making any victims at Selemani's home, member of CNL party. The reason for this attack is not known.

Threats of execution of members of CNL party in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 19, 2020 indicates that on July 12, 2020, on Bugorora hill, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province, Vivance Bazirutwabo and Melchiade Ntirampa, candidates of CNL party in the hill elections received at their homes leaflets of threats of execution if they do not withdraw their candidatures from the CENI. According to sources on site, the victims presented these leaflets to CECI and the administrative authorities but no action was taken.

Intimidation in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

Since July 9, 2020, on Mwendo hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Isaac Kabura and Gérard Nshimirimana, all members of CNL party and candidates for the hill elections have had to flee this hill. According to sources on site, Jean Marie Mugumyankiko, communal administrator had forced them to withdraw their candidatures for the hill elections but they refused. They fled for fear of reprisals.

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, abductions and arbitrary arrests.

This bulletin also discusses threats, intimidation, intolerance against CNL party members and a grenade attack.

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.