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

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°224 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 20 - 26 July 2020





In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 26 July 2020, Iteka has documented at least 557 cases of enforced disappearances.

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#### **ACRONYMS**

*API* : Support for the Protection of Institutions

AT : Transmission Agent

**CECI** : Communal Electoral Independent Commission

**CEPI** : Provincial Electoral Independent Commission

*CNDD-FDD* : National Council for the Defense of Democracy

CNL : National Congress for Liberty

*EAC* : East African Community

GMIR : Rapid Intervention Mobile Group

*IRC* : International Rescue Committee

*OPJ* : Judicial Police Officer

*OPC* : Chief Police Officer

**PJ** : Judicial Police

RDC : Democratic Republic of Congo

SNR : National Intelligence Service

TGI : High Court

UB : University of Burundi

**UPRONA** : Union for National progress

**VSBG** : Sexual and Gender Based Violence

#### 0. INTRODUCTION

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 10 persons killed including 6 corpses, 3 persons tortured, 1 person victim of GBV and 13 persons arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims are 1 woman killed and 1 woman arrested.

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

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

This bulletin also reviews cases of violations of economic, social and cultural rights, security facts, members of political parties removed from the lists of candidates for the hill elections, irregularities observed during the elections of members of the communal council bureau and way to fighting against impunity.

### 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 prisoner killed in Ngozi commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that on July 18, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., at Ngozi prison, Athanase Nibitanga, prisoner, convicted of robbery, was shot by police when he was trying to climb the prison wall to escape. According to local sources, the victim was from Kayanza province and had one year of penal servitude left to be released.

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

### Five bodies found in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

As of July 22, 2020, on Gafumbegeti hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, five bodies of men in military uniform were found in Kibira nature reserve. According to sources on site, the bodies were transported in a military vehicle overnight and taken to an unknown destination.

### A body of a girl found in Ngozi commune and province

On July 21, 2020, around 7:00 a.m., on Gasebeyi hill, Mivo zone, Ngozi commune and province, a body of a girl, Bukuru, aged about twenty, living on the same hill, was found in a bush. According to sources on site, the victim's body showed signs of rape and traces of ropes on her arms. According to the same sources, the victim also had marks on her neck showing that she was killed by strangling by unidentified people. The corpse was buried by his family after a finding by an OPJ.

#### I.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURES

### Two students tortured in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that on July 16, 2020, around the evening, in Mutanga campus, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Jean Claude Ndayikeza and Emmanuel Munyankindi, all students of the UB, were beaten by Imbonerakure led by Jean Marie Viateur Nsengiyumva, head of Imbonerakure on this campus. According to sources on site, these alleged perpetrators received a summons from the OPJ of the general police station of the PJ.

### A member of CNL party tortured in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that on July 19, 2020, around midnight, on Sigu hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, Jean Damascène Hitimana, candidate for the hill elections, member of CNL party, was beaten in his home by Imbonerakure led by their leaders Damien Himburabagabo and Ildephonse Kibumba. According to sources site, his left eye was injured and he went to hospital for medical treatment. According to the same sources, he was accused of having refused to withdraw his candidature in the hill elections scheduled for August 24, 2020.

#### I.3. PERSONS ARBITRARILY ARRESTED BY SNR AGENTS AND POLICE

## An administration official member of CNDD-FDD party arrested in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

On the morning of July 22, 2020, on Gafumbegeti hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, Adelthe Nahabandi, head of this hill, member of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested by police who took him to Mabayi police position cell. According to sources on site, he was accused of collaborating with armed men operating in Kibira forest. According to the same sources, Venant Miburo, the provincial SNR head in Cibitoke, left for the field to interrogate him in the afternoon of the same day.

### A woman member of CNL party arrested in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

On July 20, 2020, Alice Ndayishimiye, member of CNL Party, residing on Kinyovu hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, was arrested and detained in Mwaro police station cell by Gérard Ndayisenga, provincial head of SNR. According to sources on site, she was accused of standing for the senatorial vote when she was not on the list of advisers in that commune. According to the same sources, Alice Ndayishimiye had been co-opted.

## An administration official member of CNDD-FDD party arrested in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of July 24, 2020, in Mparambo I sector, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Ramadhan Sibomana, head of this sector, at the same time deputy communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested by police who took him to Cibitoke prosecution cell. According to sources on site, the latter carried out a search at his home where they seized loincloths and plastic bags from the DRC. According to the same sources, he was accused of carrying out illicit trade in this province.

### Ten members of CNL party arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On July 21, 2020, in quarter II, Buterere zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, police from the 3<sup>rd</sup> GMIR and API arrested ten people including Abbas Simbakwiye, president of CNL party in the zone, Patrick, member of the communal council, Evariste Bakevyumusaya, Gaël Nimubona, Radjabu Minani, Israel and Rhamadhan, all members of CNL party and candidates for the elections of hill councilors scheduled for August 24, 2020. According to sources on site, these people were taken to the cell of this zone.

#### I.4. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

### A woman injured in Bukemba commune, Rutana province

On July 20, 2020, on Bukemba hill, zone and commune, Rutana province, Violette Kamikazi was wounded with a machete in the head, neck and arms by her husband Gordien Nimbona. According to sources on site, this woman has been accused of infidelity. After this crime, this alleged perpetrator went directly to Bukemba police station to report the facts and he was jailed. According to the same sources, this victim was taken to Rutana hospital by her neighbors for medical treatment.

### 1.5. VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

## A member of CNL party deprived of chemical fertilizer supply in Muyinga commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that since early July 2020, on Nkoyoyo hill, Muyinga zone, commune and province, during the distribution of chemical fertilizer to the population, Pascal, Imbonerakure, responsible for agriculture for this hill, refused to supply chemical fertilizer to a member of CNL party. According to sources on site, Jean Paul Ndabwarukanye did not benefit from this distribution of fertilizers on July 8, 2020. According to the same sources, this victim had paid an amount of money in advance required from everyone to receive the fertilizer but this Imbonerakure told him that he cannot give chemical fertilizer to a member of CNL party.

#### II. SECURITY FACTS

### Two soldiers killed and four others wounded in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of July 20 to 21, 2020, at Mushanga sub-hill, Gafumbegeti hill, Butahana zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, close to Kibira nature reserve, two soldiers were killed and four others seriously injured, in crossfire between these soldiers and elements of an armed group. According to sources on site, the crackling of heavy weapons was heard during these clashes between soldiers accompanied by young Imbonerakure operating patrols in this forest and this armed group speaking Kinyarwanda. According to the same sources, very early in the morning of July 21, 2020, these two bodies and these four wounded were loaded into two military vehicles and taken to Bujumbura Mairie. Senior military officers, including officials from the first military region, went to Rutabo sub-hill and arrested five Interahamwe while police from Mabayi commune police station arrested five young Imbonerakure from Gafumbegeti hill. These Imbonerakure were accused of collaborating with this armed group based in the nature reserve and of supplying it.

### A person killed in Muyinga commune and province

On July 21, 2020, at around 8:00 p.m., on Kayenzi hill, Muyinga zone, commune and province, Ismaël Coyitungiye, aged 42, was killed at his home by his wife Espérance Nizigimana, using a stone thrown at chest. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator quarreled with her husband whom she accused of infidelity. According to the same sources, Espérance Nizigimana was arrested by police from Muyinga communal police station on July 24, 2020.

### A newborn thrown into a toilet in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On July 23, 2020, around 9 a.m., on Karuranga sub-hill, Muyange hill, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, a newborn baby was found alive in a seven-meter deep toilet by the population of this locality. According to sources on site, this newborn had been thrown by his mother, Nema Mayinesi, 25 years old, widowed for 4 years, residing on Muyange hill. According to the same sources, the baby was quickly taken to CDS Muyange for treatment. Nema Mayinesi was arrested by the police and jailed in Nyanza-lac communal police station cell.

### Attack and intimidation in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that on July 18, 2020, on Kiyonza hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, Ildephonse Matuture, member of CNL party, was attacked at his home by Imbonerakure including Bitunange and Gilbert Himbarwa with machetes. According to sources on site, the latter accused him of having refused to withdraw his candidature for the hill elections scheduled for August 24, 2020. According to the same sources, this victim lodged a complaint with the communal administrator, René Mukandori but the latter only told him to leave CNL party to join CNDD-FDD party.

#### Attack on a house in Bubanza commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated July 20, 2020 indicates that on the night of July 19, 2020, on Mitakataka hill, Bubanza commune and province, a home of the former EAC MP, Manassé Nzobonimpa, was attacked by a group of unidentified people. According to sources on site, the latter burned the rice straw which was in this house and they fled when residents of the locality intervened. According to the same sources, on July 20, 2020, police arrested Kévin Niyongabo, a resident of Mitakataka, accused of being with this group that attacked this house and he was taken to the provincial police station cell in Bubanza.

### A hill head Imbonerakure extorting his population in Muyinga commune and province

On July 23, 2020, on Kibongera hill, Muyinga zone, commune and province, Zacharie Barasokoroza, widower, residing on this hill, was robbed a phone with SIM card by Selemani Ndayizeye, Imbonerakure and head of this hill. According to sources on site, the latter told him that he needed to use his phone but did not give back it to him. According to the same sources, Zacharie Barasokoroza was using this phone to receive assistance money from IRC organization as part of "Tubeho neza" project supporting vulnerable people.

On the same date, this hill head, Selemani Ndayizeye, attempted to steal a phone from Alice Mugishawimana, married, living on Kibongera hill, beneficiary of the same IRC project. He sent an Imbonerakure to her house to get her phone, but Alice was not at home. Afterwards, he summoned this woman by ordering her to bring him her phone and Alice decided to flee.

### CNL party office destroyed in Muyinga commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that on the night of July 14 to 15, 2020, on Rugari hill and zone, Muyinga commune and province, a zonal office of CNL party was destroyed by unidentified people. According to sources on site, walls and windows were all destroyed with pickaxes as it could be seen in the traces on remains of the walls. According to the same sources, Imbonerakure from this locality have been suspected of committing this crime for they still carry out night patrols there. Donatien Ahishakiye, Rugari zone head, confirmed these facts and called on political party activists to respect each other.

### III. MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF HILL ELECTION CANDIDATES

## A woman member of CNDD-FDD party removed from the list of candidates for the hill elections in Cankuzo commune and province

On July 25, 2020, Yolande Ndemera, member of CNDD-FDD party, former hill elected of Muterero, Cankuzo commune and province, was removed from the list of candidates for the hill elections scheduled for August 24, 2020, by CECI Cankuzo. According to sources on site, she has been accused of incompetence during the previous term, but other sources say she was accused of supporting CNL party members. The latter firmly denied all these accusations despite she removed from the list of candidates.

# Four members of CNL and UPRONA parties removed from the lists of candidates for the hill elections in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On July 21, 2020, four members of CNL party, on the lists of candidates for the elections of hill councilors of Buhiga (Rwingoma, Ramvya, Nzibarira hills) and Buhinyuza (Kigoma hill), Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, have been removed from the lists by CECI Buhiga. According to sources on site, these victims are Viola Haragirimana from Rwingoma hill, member of UPRONA party, who had left CNDD-FDD party during the presidential election campaign of May 2020; Habarugira from Ramvya hill, member of CNL party who had also left CNDD-FDD party; Emmanuel Manirambona from Nzibariba hill, member of CNL and Victoire from Kigoma hill, member of UPRONA. According to the same sources, these people were removed from the lists after a meeting to review the files of candidates for the hill elections by CECI held at its office in Buhiga.

## Seven members of CNL party removed from the lists of candidates for the hill elections in Makamba province

As of July 24, 2020, seven members of CNL party, appearing on lists of candidates for the elections of Budaketwa hills, Nyamugari of Mabanda commune; Cunamwe, Gasaka and Karongi hills of Makamba commune and Mbizi and Nyarutuntu hills of Kibago commune, Makamba province, were deleted from the lists of candidates for hill elections by CECI Kibago, Mabanda and Makamba. According to local sources, these victims are Etienne Mboza from Budaketwa hill, Jean Simbare from Nyamugari hill, Ferdinand from Cunamwe hill, Lameck Girukwigomba from Karongi hill, Pie Ndikumana from Gasaka hill, Gloriose Bayubahe from Mbizi hill and Samuel Ndoricimpa from Nyarutuntu hill. According to the same sources, their membership to CNL party was the source of removing them from these lists. As of July 20, 2020, they spent the whole day at CEPI Makamba office with letters of complaint to be restored to their rights but were threatened with arrest if they continued to protest.

## Twenty-five members of CNL party removed from the lists of candidates for the hill elections in Gitega province

As of July 24, 2020, twenty-five members of CNL party, candidates for the elections of councilors of Kanyonga, Butare, Gisikara, Mutanga, Gihamagara, Nkima, Buhanga and Kugitega hills of Itaba commune; Gatoza, Bucana, Muyuyuro, Ntunda, Ruririmbi and Yanza from Gishubi commune; Bihomvora, Jugwe, Masare from Nyarusange commune; Rukoba of Gitega commune, Gitega

province, were removed from the lists of candidates for the hill elections by CECI Gitega, Gishubi, Itaba and Nyarusange. According to local sources, as illustration, these victims are among others Helmenegilde Ciza and Charles Ndagijimana from Kanyonga hill; Isidore Nzeyimana from Butare hill; Emmanuel Bamporubusa from Gisikara hill; Déo Niyonkuru and Déo Ngendakumana from Mutanga hill; Constantin Nakumuryango and Sylvestre Igirukwigomba from Gihamagara hill; Gamaliel Nzokirantevye from Nkima hill; Cyprien Nyandwi from Buhanga hill; Gervais Ndikuriyo and Simon Mpuyenuruzo from Kugitega hill.

## CNL party candidates removed from the lists of candidates for elections of quarter leaders in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

Since July 20, 2020, candidates for the elections of quarter leaders from CNL party have not found themselves on lists published by CECI of the communes of Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, in Ntahangwa commune, in Buterere zone, Cibitoke and Kinama, this deletion was ordered by CNDD-FDD party and executed by CECI. Although a few have lodged appeals, no one has so far been rehabilitated in their rights. According to the same sources, no explanation or reason for rejecting their candidature has been given.

## IV. IRREGULARITIES OBSERVED DURING ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMUNAL COUNCIL

## Irregularities observed in the implementation of the bureau of the communal council of Mukaza, Bujumbura Mairie

As of July 24, 2020, in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, the planned elections for members of the communal council office have not taken place. According to sources on site, the candidates for the positions of president, vice-president of the board and director were not able to obtain the required votes. According to the president of CEPI Bujumbura Mairie, consultations between CNDD-FDD, UPRONA and CNL parties did not lead to a consensus. According to the same sources, the elections have been postponed for July 27, 2020.

## Secret elections of the members of the bureau of the communal council of Ntahangwa, Bujumbura Mairie

On July 24, 2020, in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, members of the communal council met to elect the administrator, the president and the vice-president of the aforesaid council. According to sources on site, sometime later, disputes broke out between these members of the aforesaid council from the CNDD-FDD, CNL and UPRONA parties in the room, thus preventing the CEPI members from supervising the conduct of the elections. Police officers and Imbonerakure appeared in the room and accused members of CNL party of being behind the disturbances. According to the same sources, after CNL party members had left, the CEPI which had postponed the elections reorganized these elections where only CNDD-FDD party members attended.

### Violation of order n $^\circ$ 013 / CENI / 2020 of July 7, 2020 validating the distribution table of communal administrators

As of July 24, 2020, in all provinces of Burundi, members of the communal council elected communal administrators and other members of the bureau of the aforesaid council. Regarding the implementation of communal administrators, voters should be based on Order No. 013 / CENI / 2020

of July 7, 2020 validating the distribution table of communal administrators. Considering some results already available, we observe that in some communes, the CENI's decision in terms of gender or ethnic representation was not respected.

As illustration, in Bubanza commune, Bubanza province, Miss Olive Niyonkuru was elected, a Hutu from CNDD-FDD party, while CENI had recommended that this post be occupied by a Tutsi woman.

This violation of the decree was also observed in Karuzi, Muyinga and Ngozi provinces. In fact, in Karuzi province, Nyabikere commune, the CENI decree provided for the election of a Hutu woman to the position of communal administrator but they elected a woman from the Tutsi social component, Claudine Murekerisoni, member of CNDD-FDD party.

In Muyinga province, Buhinyuza commune, the CENI decree provided for the election of a Tutsi man but they elected a woman from the Tutsi social component, Espérance Ndayisaba, a member of CNDD-FDD party. In Gashoho commune, the CENI's forecasts of a Tutsi woman were also not respected because they elected Fauzia Kamariza, woman of the Hutu social component, member of CNDD-FDD party. In Gasorwe commune, they elected Dieudonné Niyonizigiye alias Bidome, a man from the Tutsi social component in place of a man from the Hutu social component.

In Ngozi province, these same violations were observed in Gashikanwa and Marangara communes where the decree required respectively a woman from the Hutu social component and a man from the Hutu social component, but they elected Théophile Niyibizi, a Hutu man and Goreth Nshimirimana, Hutu woman, all members of CNDD-FDD party.

#### V. WAY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

## Towards the dismantling of a group of fourteen Imbonerakure suspected criminals in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that on the night of July 15 to 16, 2020, twelve Imbonerakure were arrested and jailed in Makamba provincial police station by police. Police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye said these people were accused of extorting and killing citizens from Tanzania. Among these alleged perpetrators, there were administrative authorities including the Bigina zone head in Kayogoro commune and Mudaturwa hill heads. In their operations, they shared roles and some who played a pathfinder role, "JIW", went to Tanzania to obtain information on these Burundians returning via Maragarazi border. These people arrested were Paul Rwajekera, Bigina zone head; Léonidas Ntakirutimana, head of Imbonerakure on Mudaturwa hill; Lameck Ndayizeye, one of Bigina hill elected; Jean Berchmas Niyonkuru who was walking with a machete; Alexis Arakaza having bought a vehicle from robbery which he baptized "asante corona" and driver; Zebedee accused of killing Masafuriya while sharing stolen stuffs; Jean-Bosco Haragirimana, Imbonerakure of Mayange hill; Jean-Bosco Ntakirutimana, hill secretary of CNDD-FDD party in Sampeke; Prosper Gakiza, Mudaturwa hill head; Gilbert Niyonzima; Louis Barutwanayo, Bigina hill head; Ernest Niyonsaba, Imbonerakure of Bigina hill; Salvator Ndayishimiye, head of Imbonerakure militiamen on Mayange hill and Diomède Ngabonziza, hill secretary of CNDD-FDD party in Mayange. On July 18, 2020, the national police announced that they seized from these alleged criminals 4 national identity cards including their owners (Ntamahungiro Cyrille from Karusi province, Levis Havyarimana, born in 1992 on Rubarasi hill in Gitega commune province; Jean Marie Harerimana, born in 1998 on Rushubi hill, Muhanga commune Kayanza province and Fiston Irakoze

born in 2001 on Gishikanwa hill Bugenyuzi commune Karuzi province) would have been killed by this gang after having stolen their property.

# Appearance of 12 Imbonerakure, 4 police officers and 1 soldier accused of extortion and murder of Burundians coming from Tanzania.

On July 22, 2020, Makamba TGI sent the file R.P 7744 of 12 Imbonerakure including Paul Rwajekera, Léonidas Ntakirutimana, Lameck Ndayizeye, Jean Berckmas Niyonkuru, Alexis Arakaza and Zebedée; 4 police officers (OPC Martin Ntahomvyariye; Fidèle Kirimwabagabo, police brigadier; Jackson Kubwimana, brigadier, Manassé Mpawenimana, AT of the communal commissioner of Kayogoro) and a soldier, Célestin Nihorimbere, head of Maragarazi border post, to the court of appeal of Makamba after this court found that among the defendants including a senior police officer enjoys the privilege of jurisdiction. According to sources on site, in the afternoon of July 23, 2020, the Makamba Court of Appeal, sitting in matters of flagrance, heard the case which was postponed for July 27, 2020 on the request of the lawyers. The latter indicated that they had not yet read the files of the defendants.

### Two police officers fired in Rutana province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 20, 2020 indicates that on July 18, 2020, in Rutana commune and province, OPP2 Gilbert Ngendankazi and OPC Martin Ntahomvyariye, respectively head of police station in Gihofi zone at Bukemba communal police station and the communal police commissioner in Kayogoro were fired. According to sources on site, these two police officers were accused of collaborating with civilians who had erected roadblocks at border posts between Burundi and Tanzania by involving in extortion, theft and assassinations of Burundians from Tanzania. According to the same sources, OPP2 Gilbert Ngendankazi and OPC Martin Ntahomvyariye shared the loot with administrators and Imbonerakure. They were respectively replaced by two police officers, Etienne Bigirindavyi and Déo Ndayegamiye.

#### VI. 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 cases of killings, torture, SGBV and arbitrary arrests.

This bulletin reports cases of violations of economic, social and cultural rights, security facts, members of political parties especially the CNL party deleted from the lists of candidates for the hill elections, irregularities observed during the elections of members of the communal council bureau and the way to the fight against impunity that some officials of the public services and officials of CNDD-FDD party enjoyed.

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.