

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

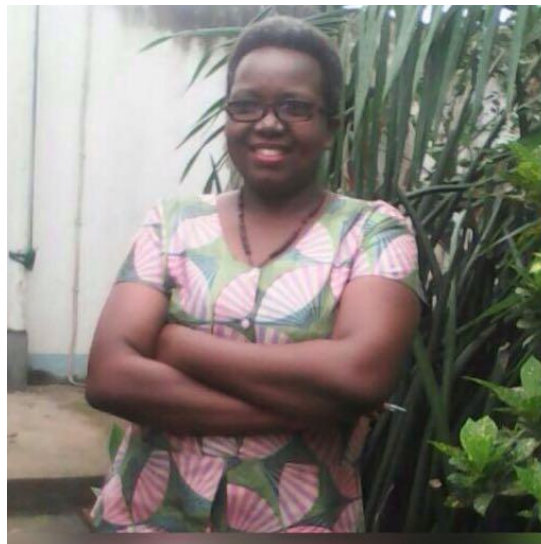
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"ITEKA"*

Week from 27 July – 2 August 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 2 August 2020, Iteka has documented at least 557 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CECI	: <i>Communal Electoral Independent Commission</i>
CEPI	: <i>Provincial Electoral Independent Commission</i>
CENI	: <i>National Electoral Independent Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PJ	: <i>Judicial Police</i>
SOSUMO	: <i>Moso Sugar Plant</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
VSBG	: <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 10 corpses, 1 person tortured and 2 persons victims of GBV.

Among these victims are 2 women killed.

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, torture and GBV in the country.

This bulletin also reviews cases of security facts, members of political parties deleted from the lists of candidates for the hill elections, irregularities observed during the elections of members of the bureau of the communal council and way to the fight 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 IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 27, 2020 indicates that on July 26, 2020, Emmanuel Ruberintwari, member of CNL party, residing on Munyinya hill, Mukerwa zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, died following the assault and battery inflicted on him by Imbonerakure, Nzojibwami, hill head of this militia on Mukerwa hill, Ntaryamira, Gasarwenda, Kavakure, Riyazimana and André, candidates for Mukerwa hill elections. According to sources on site, on July 22, 2020, these Imbonerakure beat him when he had just visited his sister living on Mwenya hill of Kirundo commune and province and they stole a sum of 12,000 Bif from him that he possessed. According to the same sources, after being beaten, he lodged a complaint with Léopold Biziragakuba, Mukerwa hill head, but he was not received. On July 26, 2020, at around 5:00 p.m., these alleged perpetrators and the head of the hill were arrested and taken to Busoni commune police cell.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

Two bodies found in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On July 30, 2020, around 8:00 a.m., on Bushirambeho hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, two bodies of Sévérin Ntakimazi, married, residing on Buhinyuza hill and Rose, married, residing on Bushirambeho hill, were found beheaded, near the road. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrators of these crimes have not been identified. According to the same sources, the hill head, Anésie Nizigiyimana and the public prosecutor in Karuzi, François Harerimana, indicated that the investigations have started.

A body of a prisoner found in Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province

On the morning of July 27, 2020, on Ruvumu hill, Jarama zone, Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province, a body of Fidèle Ntibanyura, aged 43, detained in Muyinga prison, was found near the home of Isidore Nzeyimana, trader from Buhinyuza. According to sources on site, on the night of July 26-27, 2020, cries of attack to Isidore Nzeyimana's home were heard. Unidentified thieves broke down a house before escaping, taking some of the merchant's belongings with them. According to Serges, director of Muyinga prison, the prisoner had been allowed to go out to secure the fields around this prison and he had 2 years left to complete his sentence after being sentenced to 12 year for murder. According to the same sources, Pacifique Ndiokubwayo, administrator of Buhinyuza commune and Serges, director of this prison reacted saying that the prisoner was killed either in self-defense when he was stealing or he was eliminated by his friends.

A body found in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On August 2, 2020, around 7:00 a.m., in Taba quarter, near Buhiga trading center, Mwoya hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, a body of the nicknamed Juma, pig trader, member of

CNDD-FDD party, was found hanged in the living room of his home. According to sources on site, Juma returned late that night and the family believed he had slept in the living room.

Four bodies found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On July 29, 2020, towards the morning, on Myave hill, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, four bodies of unidentified men in decomposition and piled up were found near Kibira nature reserve by locals going to Ndora market. According to sources on site, these corpses wore Burundian military boots and uniforms. According to the same sources, Jean Bosco Hategekimana, communal administrator of Bukinanyana sent a team of OPJs and local officials to inquire about the situation. These corpses were buried the same day by the population.

A body of CNL party member found in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 27, 2020 indicates that on July 23, 2020, on the Buringa hill and zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, a body of Georges, member of CNL party, shepherd, originally from Gitega province, was found near Ninga River. According to sources on site, this body had machete wounds on the head, back and legs. According to the same sources, the victim's family recovered the body to go and bury it in Gitega.

A body found in Rutovu commune, Bururi province

On the morning of July 27, 2020, on Kajondi hill, Rutovu commune, Bururi province, a body of Jean Pierre alias Mugumya whose age is between 20 years and 25 years old, son of Zénon Nyana, student, was found in a bush on his native hill. According to sources on site, this corpse had wounds on the head. According to the same sources, Jean Pierre was assassinated by unknown persons when he returned from Kajondi center. Two people were arrested for investigation reasons, according to police in Rutovu.

A person killed in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

On July 27, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., on Kivuvu hill, Mutoyi zone, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, Prime Sindibagira, a native of the same hill, was killed when he came from a bar. According to sources on site, one person was arrested and detained in Bugendana police cell for investigative reasons.

1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A member of CNL party tortured in Rumonge commune and province

On July 29, 2020, on Mibanda hill, Kizuka zone, Rumonge commune and province, a nicknamed Nduki, member of CNL party, was beaten and injured in the head by Nestor Havyarimana, Imbonerakure of this hill. According to sources on site, Nestor was arrested by the police for assault and battery. According to the same sources, the victim was taken to a health facility near Mibanda for medical treatment.

I.3. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Kayanza commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 27, 2020 indicates that on July 25, 2020, on Kirema hill, Kayanza commune and province, C.M., 9 years old, from the same hill, was raped by a 20-year-old man from the same locality. According to sources on site, this alleged perpetrator asked the victim to show him the way to the river and he raped her afterwards in a bush near this river. According to the same sources, this alleged perpetrator took off after the act while the victim was taken to Kayanza hospital for medical treatment.

A woman injured in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On July 29, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., on Canika hill, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, Batamuriza, wife of Mbwenu, was cut off part of the ear by her husband. According to sources on site, this incident took place following quarrels that arose after the victim sold a hen without the knowledge of the head of the household. According to the same sources, this victim was treated at CDS Nyamisagara while the head of the household was arrested by the police and detained in Vumbi communal cell.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A woman killed in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 27, 2020 indicates that on the night of July 26, 2020, on Mugeru hill and zone, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, Emilienne Nsekerabansi, aged 55, was stabbed to death at her home by her neighbor Simon Bukuru. According to sources on site, the latter stabbed two daughters of the victim who were with her. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator tried to flee but the neighbors who intervened arrested him when he was hiding in the bush and beat him before being rescued by the police commissioner of Mishiha commune come on the appeal of the new Governor of Cankuzo province, Banyiyezako Boniface. Simon Bukuru and the victim's two daughters were taken to Gishungo CDS for medical treatment. According to this Governor, the wife of the alleged perpetrator accused Emilienne Nsekerabansi of being behind the death of her newborn baby by bewitching.

A woman communal administrator threatened in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province

On July 30, 2020, around 12:00pm, at Mwakiro commune office, Muyinga province, Sylvie Muhimpundu, Mwakiro outgoing communal administrator, was attacked and threatened by Balthazar Nyabenda alias Kajisho, Mwakiro zone head. According to sources on site, the administrator had summoned him to explain on the trees he cut in June and July 2020, on Kibwigwa, Butobwe and Kibande hills. During the interrogation, the zone head threatened this authority, telling her that if she continued to question him he would kill her. According to the same sources, panicked Sylvie Muhimpundu cried for help and the police officers who intervened overpowered Balthazar Nyabenda. While searching him, they found a knife in his socks. Balthazar Nyabenda was arrested the same day and taken to the communal police cell before being transferred to Muyinga prison.

Intimidating speech by an administration official in Cankuzo commune and province

On July 27, 2020, in Cankuzo commune and province, Cankuzo zone head, Christophe Nyamiye, during a meeting held with traders at Cankuzo market, threatened and insulted the participants by accusing them of voting for CNL party. According to sources on site, he told them that whoever does not attend from now on community development work will be considered a foreigner, will no longer have access to Cankuzo market, all the places occupied will be withdrawn and distributed to those who line with CNDD-FDD policy. According to the same sources, he told CNL party members: "All of you CNL, you will have to wait for wait 7 years, other 7 years, and so on and you will never be in power. You only have to obey or leave. You have no place here. Further, whoever is present here, let him register on the list to see those who are absent. "It should be noted that these comments were made during an awareness session for people in Cankuzo urban center to partake regularly in community development work.

Four houses and eight goats burned in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

On July 30, 2020, around 11:00 p.m., on Nyamugari hill, Kankima zone, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, four houses and eight goats were burned by unidentified people. According to sources on site, among the victims are Michel Bigirimana, member of CNL party, former head of Nyamugari hill and candidate removed from the list of candidates for the elections of hill councilors on Nyamugari hill, from the same commune as well as Fiacre Gasore. , residing on Nyamugari hill, former member of CNL party before joining CNDD-FDD party.

A market burnt down in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On July 27, 2020, around 2:00 p.m., at the 15th Maramvya street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, the market on this hill caught fire. According to local sources, wooden kiosks including various food items were burned. According to sources on site, the fire came from one of the market kiosks and the fire was brought under control at around 3:00 p.m. thanks to the intervention of the police using a fire truck.

III. MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES DELETED FROM THE LISTS OF HILL ELECTION CANDIDATES

A member of CNL party deleted from the list of candidates for the hill elections in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 27, 2020 indicates that on July 21, 2020, Léonard Nyankimbona, member of CNL party, candidate in the hill elections on Gasasa hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, was removed from the list of candidates for the elections of his hill by CECI Gitaramuka. According to sources on site, this act was ordered by Manassé Bazishaka alias Ruhombo, communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party.

IV. IRREGULARITIES OBSERVED DURING ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Resignation of the communal administrator in Burambi commune, Rumonge province

On July 28, 2020, in a letter to the president of CEPI Rumonge, Elyse Mbonayo, of the Hutu social component, member of CNDD-FDD party, elected administrator of Burambi commune, Rumonge province, resigned on July 24, 2020 from her position as communal administrator. She indicated that it was to leave this post to a woman from the Tutsi social component as required by the distribution made by the CENI in its decree n° 013 / CENI / 2020 of 07/07/2020 validating the distribution table of communal administrators. This resignation follows the weekly bulletin Iteka n'Ijambo n° 224 which denounced the irregularities observed during the elections of the members of the bureau of the communal council in which there were communal administrators elected in violation of the aforesaid decree.

Election of the new administrator of Burambi commune, Rumonge province

After the resignation of Elyse Mbonayo, newly elected administrator of Burambi commune, Rumonge province, CECI organized the elections for a new administrator, on July 30, 2020. According to sources on site, the communal council members have elected Marie Fabiola Ndayizeye, of the Tutsi social component, member of CNDD-FDD party, with A2 diploma. According to the same sources, in addition to this administrator, this council also elected Isaac Niyonkuru and Déo Nduwimana respectively to the positions of president and vice-president of the communal council, all members of CNDD-FDD party. The Burambi communal council is made up of 26 councilors including 15 from CNDD-FDD party and 11 from CNL party.

V. WAY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

A deputy prosecutor arrested in Bubanza province

On July 27, 2020, around 6:00 p.m., on Kizina hill, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, Janvier Girukwishaka, deputy public prosecutor in this province, was arrested by police on an anti-corruption court arrest warrant. According to local sources, Janvier Girukwishaka was accused of receiving a bribe. According to the same sources, he jailed men and demanded from their families a sum of one million Bif to release them. The family went to the anti-corruption court to denounce this deputy prosecutor, and the court gave this amount after taking photos of the notes. The family brought this amount to Janvier, who was arrested with 400 thousand Bif of the sum given. He was jailed at the provincial police station in Bubanza before being transferred on July 28, 2020, around the afternoon, to the general prosecutor's office near the anti-corruption court in Bujumbura.

A SOSUMO depot manager detained in Ngozi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 29, 2020 indicates that since July 23, 2020, Déo, responsible for SOSUMO depots in the North region, native of Gasura zone, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, was arrested and jailed in PJ prison in Ngozi on the initiative of the anti-corruption court. According to sources on site, he was accused of the embezzlement. According to the same sources, the victim had been in a conflict of interest with his bosses for several weeks. This case was scheduled for a hearing on August 4, 2020 by this court.

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 and SGBV.

This bulletin reports cases of security facts, members of CNL party removed 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 responsible for public services and CNDD-FDD party officials 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.