



SOS – Torture/Burundi

Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT NO. 229 PUBLISHED ON MAY 2, 2020

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 25 April to 2 May 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) people have not been found since their abduction in kigamba commune (Cankuzo). One of these people is a union leader.

The report also mentions nearly seven (7) cases of arbitrary arrests in different localities. The persons concerned are members of the opposition party CNL.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals abducted Arcade Butoyi, Alawi and a third man in the centre of kigamba commune, Cankuzo province (eastern part of the country) on 28 April 2020. Witnesses report that the kidnappers were moving in a Toyota-branded, TI-model car in which they boarded their victims. Relatives have no news of the abductees.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes enforced disappearances. One of the victims, Arcade Butoyi, is the provincial representative of one of Burundi's leading teachers' unions. A few hours before his abduction, he had done an independent sound recording during an election meeting of the opposition CNL party. There is a fear for the safety of abducted people.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police officers arrested four young men on Busebwa Hill, Gatete area, Rumonge municipality and Province (southwest of the country) on 29 April 2020. Relatives report that they are all activists of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for Freedom) who were campaigning door-to-door on behalf of their party the day before. Members of the Imbonerakure militia (ruling CNDD-FDD Party) attacked them the same evening, causing fights on both sides.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests of members of the opposition while the law authorizes the election campaign. Members of the CNDD-FDD party who assaulted

their opponents were not worried by the police. This is another evidence of law enforcement bias when members of the imbonerakure militia are involved in abuses.

- Police officers arrested Clovis Nahimana and Nduwimana on Muturigwa Hill, Minago zone, municipality and Rumonge province on 28 April 2020. Relatives report that the arrest came after members of the imbonerakure militia assaulted the two men while they were campaigning door-to-door.

Sos-Torture/Burundi again notes arbitrary arrests and bias by law enforcement against members of the opposition, while the electoral campaign is legally ongoing in Burundi until the presidential elections of 20 May 2020.

- Police officers arrested Pasteur Mpawenimana in the center of Ngozi commune and province (north of the country) on April 28, 2020. Relatives report that he is one of the candidates of the CNL opposition party for the senatorial (constituency of Makamba province) who had gone to Ngozi for the official launch of the election campaign. His arrest came after a member of the imbonerakure militia was beaten by CNL militants while he was writing down the registration plates of motorcycles carrying CNL militants.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest of an opposition member and Senator candidate. Witnesses further report that Mr. Mpawenimana is said to have been a victim of the fact that his vehicle served as a shelter for the imbonerakure militia so that he would not be lynched by disgruntled militants.



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SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on serious human rights violations in Burundi through monitoring reports including torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform about the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of 11 December and that of 12 December 2015 by police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected zones are said to be protesters of the third term of President Nkurunziza namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Town Hall of Bujumbura.

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