



REPORT No. 101 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI RELEASED NOVEMBER 18, 2017

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period between 11 and 18 November 2017 about human rights violations in Burundi.

At least five (5) persons were murdered during the period. In addition to these murdered persons, at least nine (9) others were wounded by machete attacks in Gitega Province. A young woman was tortured overnight after her arbitrary arrest by the in charge of NIS in Gitega province. Since that day, the victim who has been released is forced to live in hiding. Two (2) young minors are also listed in the report as rape victims.

The report also mentions an explosive prison situation. Between September and November 2017, the number of prisoners increased from 10,210 to 10,630, means 420 new prisoners in two months. At least 53% of these detainees are defendants, confirming cases of abusive and arbitrary detention.

1. The prison situation in Burundi continues to be explosive

The prison situation in Burundi has been constantly increasing in recent months and makes detention conditions very difficult. Already in September 2017, SOS-Torture Burundi reported an average of 319 new detainees each month in prisons in Burundi between May and September 2017 (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report N ° 93**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nums%20CC%2081ro-93-en-En.pdf>).

The prison situation at the beginning of this month of November 2017 reported 10,630 detainees for an accommodation capacity of 4,194 detainees in Burundi prisons as a whole. In two months (September-November), 420 new detainees increased the number of



CENTRE RUMONGE	72	59					18		41					81.94%
TOTAL	4,194	10,630	5,373	284	4,570	286	33		73	1	0	4	5	253.46%
			5373 + 284 = 5657		4570 + 286 = 4856		33 + 6 = 39		73 + 5 = 78			42 + 55 = 97		

1. Violations of the right to life and to physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered a young man whose body was received at Rugombo commune health center, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on November 11, 2017. The victim was not identified.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the local administration talks of a thief who was caught red handed, and beaten to death by inhabitants. The police did not confirm these facts, nor identified the perpetrators of this murder.

- Unidentified gunmen murdered Jérôme Ntamavukiro on Gatongati Hill, Gitaba zone, Rutana commune and province (south-east of the country) on November 12, 2017 in the evening. Relatives report that the victim was in her seventies.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was found near the Kirasa River, Migera zone, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province (rural province surrounding Bujumbura) on 13 November 2017. Witnesses report that the victim has been strangled.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not identify the victim, nor the circumstances and the perpetrators of his assassination.



- Unidentified individuals murdered Hassan Uwezo and Dupfiki before throwing their bodies in the waters of Lake Tanganyika at Rumonge commune and province (south-west of the country). One witness reports that the two victims are fishermen who were abducted on 12 November 2017 while fishing in Kagongo area, Kizuka zone, Rumonge commune. This witness is himself a survivor of the abduction, who reports that his comrades were tortured to death before their bodies were unloaded in Lake Tanganyika.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the survivor evokes Congolese fishermen as responsible for the abduction and death of the two men. The bodies of the victims have not been found to date.

- The head of the national intelligence service of Gitega Province arrested without a warrant Françoise Kwizera at the post office of Makebuko commune, Gitega province (center of the country) on November 9, 2017, and delivered her to imbonerakure militiamen the same day to torture her. The victim is a manager of the post office of Makebuko, and had just reported the morning when he arrived at work the theft of a certain amount committed in the same office.

Relatives report that Ms. Kwizera was taken to the Gitega district military camp, instead of being handed over to the police for possible investigations into the robbery. The Gitega NIS chief known as Blaise handed her to three imbonerakure militiamen, including Onésime identified by the victim. The militiamen tortured her horribly all night long.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that Ms. Kwizera was released agonizing the following day, and had to hide in the town of Gitega where she receives rudimentary care following the torture she suffered; for fearing to go to a hospital where she might be sued by her torturers. A judicial file was opened at the level of Gitega prosecution service and Madam Françoise Kwizera notwithstanding her health situation is under arrest warrant and now is incarcerated in Gitega Prison since Thursday, 16th November 2017.



The victim has been tortured over a good part of the body and is trying to recover (veiled photo to protect his privacy)

- Individuals attacked and wounded nine persons in Gitega province (center of the country) on November 12, 2017 in the evening. Five of the victims on Kaguhu hill, Giheta commune and four other victims on Ndamva hill in Kibimba, Gitega province.



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



Victims injured with machetes by unknown persons

- Unidentified individuals violently beaten Nzitunga (25 years old) and two of his friends on Munyika Hill II, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on November 13, 2017 in the evening. The victim and his friends were returning from work at a local restaurant at the time of their assault. The victims report that their attackers were six in number.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that police have announced the arrest of four suspects.

- Two underage girls (aged 15 and 16) were raped in the center of Rumonge on November 14, 2017 in the evening. They were forcibly taken away by two men on a motorcycle before being sexually abused. SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have announced the arrest of one of the alleged rapists, and is actively seeking the second. Medical expertise confirmed the rapes.

The police and prosecutors must also ensure the safety of the two young victims, because motocyclists have tried to threaten them to abandon the complaints.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Jacqueline Nyabenda on Gahororo Hill, Mabanda Commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on November 6, 2017. Relatives report that the order to arrest her was from Antoine Ninganza, former director of the Gahororo Basic School where Ms. Nyabenda is a teacher. The two persons have an administrative case opposing them, and the case is at the level of the Court of Appeal of Bururi (south of the country).

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that Mr. Ninganza has used his influence related to his current position as advisor to the communal management of education in Mabanda to imprison Ms. Nyabenda. During his incarceration, he accused the victim of insulting the institutions. Ms. Nyabenda spent three days in arbitrary detention under difficult conditions with her baby. She was released without follow-up and without explanation.



- Police agents arrested Faustin Ndayongeje on Muriza hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on November 9, 2017. Relatives report that he is a victim of his political affiliation with the opposition party FNL (Front National for the Liberation) faithful to the MP Agathon Rwasa. Mr Ndayongeje is accused of collaborating with FNL MP Pascal Bizumuremyi elected in Ruyigi province.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that he is not the first FNL activist to be the victim of arbitrary arrest following his relations with MP Pascal Bizumuremyi (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 99**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-ume%CC%81ro-99-en-Fr.pdf>). The deputy himself was also attacked by imbonerakure militiamen in Ruyigi on October 14, 2017; but no follow-up was given to his complaint by the prosecutor's office (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 97**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-ume%CC%81ro-97-en-Fr.pdf>).

SOS-Torture Burundi also learned that Gérard Kanani and his wife were tortured by imbonerakure militiamen on November 2, 2017 for serving as a drink to MP Pascal Bizumuremyi a few days earlier in their bistro located in Murenge, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province. Despite attempts by other bistro patrons to arrest the militiamen, the couple were evacuated to a health center for treatment following beatings. Police agents arrived the next day (November 3, 2017) to arrest Mr. Kanani and put him in jail without a warrant.

This is a growing crackdown on militants and supporters of the FNL party of Agathon Rwasa in Ruyigi province.

- Police agents arrested Theophile Kantungeko at Gihofi Hospital, Bukemba Commune, Rutana Province, south-east of the country on 13 November 2017. He was a nurse arrested after he assisted a pregnant woman, whose baby died after complications. The young woman had been evacuated urgently from a health center to this hospital.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police arrested Mr. Kantungeko without medical expertise which could have determined whether the nurse was negligent as evidenced by the family. This is an arbitrary detention, the police and the prosecutor must ensure the exact circumstances of the death occurred in the hospital.

- Agents of the national intelligence service arrested Egide Alex Barakamfitye in Bujumbura on November 16, 2017. Relatives report that he is the victim of his frequent trips to Rwanda. The young man works however as a tour guide, because of his travels.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the reasons given by the SNR do not constitute grounds for imprisonment. The intelligence service must release Mr Barakafitye.



Mr. Egide Alex Barakamfitye detained by the SNR

3. Nduta refugees denounce incursions by Burundian government agents

-SOS-Torture Burundi has learned from several sources about the disturbing presence of members of the Imbonerakure militiamen at the Nduta refugee camp in Tanzania. In addition to members of the militiamen, agents working for the Burundian National Intelligence Service have also been present for a few days. These incursions are more active in the No. 16 zone of the camp.

The infiltrated group is made up of about 50 people who conduct night patrols in the zone n016 of Nduta camp. These patrols are similar to the many patrols of imbonerakure militiamen carried out in Burundi at night. In several reports, mention is made of the violence of the militia during their patrols of all those who cross their path: beatings, cases of torture and racketeering are often inflicted on the victims.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that these abuses are also committed in the Nduta camp where militiamen and SNR agents are reported. The Tanzanian authorities must rigorously control the identities of those present in the refugee camps, to ensure that the victims who have fled are not caught up by their tormentors.

- While refugees still fear for their safety, Burundian Internal affairs Minister Pascal Barandagiye visited the Nduta and Nyarugusu camps in Tanzania on 16 and 17 November 2017 to try to convince the Burundians to return. SOS-Torture Burundi is pleased,

however, that the Tanzanian Deputy Minister of the Internal affairs accompanying him has reassured the refugees that there will be no forced repatriation of Burundians. The refugees were also forced to greet the Burundian minister and listen to his speech, and the visit was cut short after about 20 minutes.



Burundian and Tanzanian Ministers of Internal affairs visit Nduta



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The SOS-Torture / Burundi campaign was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about serious human rights violations under way in Burundi through monitoring reports, based particularly on torture and arbitrary arrests forced 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 December 11 and that of December 12, 2015 by police and soldiers on the pretext of pursuing rebels who came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital Bujumbura.

The affected zone are said to be contesting President Nkurunziza's third mandate which are Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Hall.