



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT No. 107 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED DECEMBER 30, 2017

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period from 23 to 30 December 2017 concerning cases of violations and human rights violations in Burundi.

At least three (3) persons were murdered during the period by unidentified individuals to date. Among the victims are an agent of a security company and a girl killed and hanged in a mock suicide in Rutana and Mutimbuzi. Two (2) others were tortured, one by imbonerakure militiamen and the second by police agents. In both cases, the torturers identified by witnesses were not prosecuted for their actions.

The report also mentions at least eight (8) arrests including activists of FNL party faithful to MP Agathon Rwasa. They are victims of repression following a campaign by these opponents to reject the project of the new Constitution. In this crackdown, imbonerakure militiamen beat locals to warn them if they refuse to vote in favor of this revision project.

Sos-Torture Burundi also reports threats in Kirundo targeting former soldiers and ex-rebels who have not belonged to the CNDD FDD. The same threats targeted opponents of the UPRONA party a few weeks ago in the same province.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered Amour Barihuta on Gihofi Hill, Bukemba commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) whose body was discovered on December 28, 2017. Witnesses report that the victim was a security guard working for a private security company, still wearing his uniform at the time of the assassination. He was been found in the walls of the city of the Moso Sugar Company (SOSUMO).

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the murderers attempted to simulate suicide by wrapping the victim's neck around sheets connected to iron bars of a fence. However, the position of the body whose legs hang down to the ground confirms a simulacrum of suicide. Police have not identified any suspects to date.



Victim found murdered in Rutana

- Unidentified individuals murdered Onesphore Nduwayo whose body was discovered on the banks of the Mpanda River in Mpanda Commune, Bubanza Province (western part of the country) on 25 December 2017. Relatives report that the victim is a nurse from the Health center of Murengeza (Mpanda Commune) Mr. Nduwayo had been abducted three days earlier from his home.

The police have not identified any suspects to date, nor have they determined the exact circumstances of his murder.

- Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen tortured Arthur Ndayizeye on Jimbi Hill, Kibago Commune, Makamba Province (southern part of the country) on December 26, 2017 in the evening. Relatives report that militiamen Maronko and Kayoba ambushed the young student and seriously injured him.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes a critical health condition of the victim, and the fact that the police did not arrest the alleged torturers.

- Police agents tortured Patrice Nsabiyaemye on Rusororo hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, north-west of the country, on December 28, 2017. Witnesses report that the perpetrators are AP2 agents Ferdinand Kubwimana and APC Wakudebwa ; in addition to a local trader Jean Paul Hakizimana.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not conducted any arrest of the alleged identified perpetrators, who are free and would not be in their first case of torture. The victim was hospitalized as a result of assault and battery.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Tamari whose body was discovered in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province on December 29, 2017. Relatives report that the victim is a young student who lived in Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province (west of country) and was missing since the previous day.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the girl was undressed in part, the killers leaving him only an underwear and a T-shirt. The young student was also hanged on an oil palm, but the body rests partially to the knees on the ground; which excludes any suspicion of suicide. Police have not identified any suspects to date, nor the exact circumstances of his assassination.



The girl Tamari murdered and hanged in a hurry on a palm tree

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Laurent Nsengiyumva in the Mubuga zone, Gitega commune and province (central of the country) on December 22, 2017 in the evening. Relatives report that this man is a victim of his political affiliation with FNL of the opposition and faithful to Deputy Agathon Rwasa.

- Individuals abducted Olivier Butoyi the Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province (west of the country) on December 23, 2017. Witnesses report that the young man was in a local bistro, and was taken into a car TI with civil plate. Among the kidnappers, the witnesses were able to identify a judicial police officer assigned to Muzinda known as Jean Berchmans.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the victim is the youth representative of the MSD party (Movement for Solidarity and Democracy) in Bubanza. Relatives report that he is a victim of his political affiliation, especially as a member of the ruling party have approached him to encourage him to reconnect MSD youth to the CNDD FDD party. Olivier Butoyi also returned from Kenya eight months ago, after leaving Burundi in 2015 during the crisis. The police must specify the place where Olivier Butoyi was taken if it is an arrest made by the J PO of Muzinda. Sos-Torture Burundi, however, fears for the safety of the young representative of the MSD, given the silence of the police to date.

- Imbonerakure militiamen arrested and beaten up several residents of Nyabitare zone, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on December 23 and 24, 2017. Witnesses report that the group was led by Jean Fatavyanka, director of Nyabitare High School. The militiamen illegally placed barriers in several places and began to beat all passersby.

During the beatings, militiamen ordered the victims to vote in favor of the draft amendment to the Constitution that the government of President Pierre Nkurunziza wants to impose through a referendum in May 2018, which Constitution will allow him to lift the limit of mandates. This is not the first time that people have been repressed since the launch of the Constitution Change Campaign.



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Another group of militiamen carried out the same operation in Sanzu quarter, Ruyigi commune and province (East of the country) on December 23, 2017. The vendors in the kiosks and the clients were beaten by the group of militiamen. The police have not opened any investigation into these incidents to date.

- Police agents arrested Yves Nsabimana and Clovis Kwizera on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on December 27, 2017. Relatives report that the two young men are high school students.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that they were arrested on mere suspicion and without warrants, after individuals threw stones at a police agent in a local bistro. The police did not communicate any connection between these young men and the perpetrators of the stone throwing, which did not hurt anyone.

- Police agents arrested Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, Ezekiel Mahoro, Ernest Nahimana, Alexis Ntahomvukiye and Dominique in Gihanga Commune, Bubanza Province (West of the country) on December 28, 2017. Eyewitnesses report that all 5 men are activists of the FNL (National Front for Liberation) opposition party loyal to Agathon Rwasa.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that they are accused of carrying out a campaign to reject the draft new Constitution initiated by the government and to allow the Burundian President to remain in power forever. These are arbitrary arrests aimed at stifling political discord.



Five FNL militants arrested in Gihanga

3. Retired soldiers worry about their safety in Kirundo

Sos-Torture Burundi learned from several sources that Imbonerakure militiamen of the ruling party in Kirundo north of the country have started a secret census of former soldiers from the Burundian Armed Forces (ex-FAB) and FNL rebel movement of Agathon Rwasa. This census is interested in knowing the original hills of these former soldiers and former rebels living in Kirundo, their current place of residence, their specific ethnic groups, the situation of their families and if they have relatives in exile.

This census is worrying, especially since it is done in collaboration with agents of the national intelligence service and some police agents. SOS-Torture Burundi had already reported threats against politicians of the opposition party UPRONA (Union for National Progress) relatives to Charles Nditije (in exile) living in Kirundo after the assassination of the party's provincial leader, Serge Barutwanayo, November 28, 2017. A list of opponents of the Uprona to be eliminated has been developed according to relatives (**see report Sos-Torture Burundi No. 105: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nume%CC%81ro-105-en-Fr.pdf>**).

This new census of the former soldiers of FAB and former rebels of the FNL movement raises fears of a risk for the safety of those concerned and their families. The police must ensure the safety of the concerned persons, and identify the agents who collaborate with the imbonerakure militiamen in this census.



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

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

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