



REPORT No 99 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2017

This SOS-Torture report covers the period from October 28 to November 4, 2017 concerning human rights violations in Burundi.

At least seven (7) persons were murdered during the period. Victims include six (6) men and a girl. Most of the victims were found several hours after the crimes, on hills or in rivers. One man was tortured till death by a group of imbonerakure militiamen in Kirundo province, and two (2) survived tortures in Ruyigi province.

The report also mentions ten (10) cases of arbitrary arrests among them three (3) activists of the FNL opposition party in Ruyigi. These members of the opposition were previously attacked by imbonerakure militiamen. Four other persons were arrested in Cibitoke by SNR agents, but relatives have no news of the victims.

SOS-Torture Burundi is also concerned about the paramilitary training of members of the imbonerakure militiamen in Rugombo commune Cibitoke Province. These trainings are made in the open, unlike other previous trainings that were hidden.

The case of human rights defender Germain Rukuki is also mentioned in the report. He continues to be the victim of arbitrary detention, Bujumbura Court of Appeal having refused his request for provisional release.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- The Imbonerakure militiamen tortured Mugabonihera on Kumana hill, Nyagisozi zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on October 26, 2017 in the evening. Relatives said that the victim died the same day, and that some of his torturers were identified. The militia accused the victim of not supporting the ruling party CNDD FDD, igipinga in national language being the word used to designate opponents to power.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police apprehended two (2) suspects, members of the imbonerakure militiamen after this execution.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was discovered on Bitare Hill, Murwi Commune, Cibitoke Province (north-west of the country) on October

28, 2017 during the day. Witnesses report that the body was rotting, and probably dropped on the scene after several hours of death.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the administration immediately ordered the burial of the victim without prior identification or investigation to know the circumstances and the perpetrators of this murder.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a young man whose body was found in Bururi commune (south of the country) on the road between Bururi and Rumonge provinces on October 28, 2017. Witnesses report that the victim was suffocated and has not been identified.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that police file the body at the morgue, but did not identify the victim or the perpetrators of this assassination.

- Individuals murdered Celestin Nyawenda whose body was found floating in the Kagogo River, Butezi Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of the country) on October 30, 2017.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have announced the arrest of a suspect.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Faustin Niyonkuru whose body was found in decomposition state on Nyabututsi hill, Gitega commune and province (center of the country) on October 30, 2017. Relative's report that they did not heard from him since 5 days, probably after his kidnapping by the perpetrators of this assassination.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date, and the local administration has ordered the burial of the victim.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a girl whose body was found on Kibogoye Hill in Muyinga Province, (northern the country), on October 30, 2017. The local administration reported that the victim was also raped.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was found floating in the Dogodogo River on Mparambo Hill II, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on November 3, 2017. Witnesses report that the victim received several knives from the body.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that this man has not been identified by the local authorities. His body was allegedly dropped by his assassins at this location to delay identification.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Imbonerakure militiamen tortured Method Ntawukirishiga and his brother-in-law Bosco on Ruharo Hill, Nyabitsinda Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of the country) on October 27, 2017 in the evening. Witnesses report that these militiamen were led by Ferdinand Kanani, one of the leaders of the imbonerakure militiamen in Nyabitsinda commune. The two (2) victims were tied up and violently beaten up.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that they had to pay respectively twenty thousand (20,000) and seventy thousand (70,000) francs each to save their lives. Witnesses report that the same group of militiamen also tortured a young man who was taking a drink at a local bistro on the same Ruharo hill. The victim is one of the sons of Pierre Claver Ndarurereye. He was forcibly taken to his home with clubbing and was in turn extorted of forty thousand (40,000) francs in exchange for life.

This is not the first time that militiaman Ferdinand Kanani has been pointed in torture and extortion in Nyabitsinda commune. Militia members report that he was given full military uniform as a hill militia leader. The police and the communal authorities of Nyabitsinda turn a blind eye to the actions of these militiamen.

- National Intelligence Service agents arrested four (4) men in the center of Buganda Commune, Cibitoke Province (north-west of the country) on October 28, 2017 during the day. Witnesses report that they were quickly embarked in a vehicle with tinted windows towards the road leading to the city of Bujumbura.

SOS-Torture Burundi also learned that the arrest was carried out during a demonstration by members of the ruling CNDD FDD party, including the president of the National Assembly. There is fear of forced disappearance, especially as the SNR has not indicated the reasons for these arrests or the place of detention of these four (4) persons.

- Police agents arrested Christa Bella Keza on Nyamutobo Hill, Ruyigi commune, and province, on October 30, 2017. Relatives report that the young woman had

just returned from a stay in Tanzania and was detained in the prison of Ruyigi police station.

SOS-Torture Burundi also learned that the young woman, resident of Gitaramuka hill, Karusi province (central-eastern part of the country), was taken from the prison by the head of Ruyigi's national intelligence service who took him to a place not known. To date, the reasons for his arrest have not been communicated to relatives.

- Police agents arrested Martin Kayimba, Thacien Igirivyiza and Adrien Bavugamenshi on the Rushwahunga sub-hill, Bweru hill and commune, Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country) on 1 November 2017. Witnesses report that police agents were accompanied with imbonerakure militiamen led by the nicknamed Pému. The three (3) men were searched in their homes, accused of possessing weapons before being taken into the vehicle of the police commissioner of Ruyigi and put in the cell of the same police station. The search allowed no seizure and the imbonerakure militiamen then accused them of holding hidden meetings.

SOS-Torture Burundi also notes that the three (3) men are militants of the FNL (National Front for Liberation) opposition party of following Agathon Rwaswa (vice-president of the National Assembly). They were arrested two weeks after the aggression of member of parliament Pascal Bizumuremyi of the same FNL party on this Rushwahunga hill by a group of imbonerakure militiamen, and accused of collaborating with the deputy (cf report Sos-Torture Burundi N ° 97: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nume%CC%81ro-97-en-Fr.pdf>). No action had been taken on the MP's complaint, and the police did not communicate the reasons for the arrest of these three (3) activists.

The day before the arrest of these FNL militants, relatives report that they had been attacked in a bistro by the same leader of the imbonerakure militiamen nicknamed Pému.

- Two (2) young persons from Agathon Rwaswa's FNL party, Niyonkuru Claude and Sinarinzi nick named Gapapa, from Mugoboka Hill, Rohero Zone, Mukaza Commune in Bujumbura Town Hall are missing. They were kidnapped by youth of

the imbonerakure militia on the night of November 2, 2017, after they had opposed the arrest of Mugoboka hill elected Richard.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces this behavior of young imbonerakure of the ruling party that replaces the police. The police say they have been informed of these disappearances but do not know where these young people are.

3. Paramilitary training continues

Sos-Torture Burundi learned from several sources that the paramilitary training of young militiamen imbonerakure of the ruling party CNDD FDD is continuing in some localities, despite numerous denunciations aimed at ending it.

This is the case of Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) where militiamen meet every Sunday from 7H to 8H30. Witnesses report that they are organized in three different places to conduct these trainings to warn anyone who doesn't support the party on power. A first group trains at the communal high school Rugombo II, a second group at the Rugombo stadium and the last group of imbonerakure is organized at the Rugombo I fundamental school.

They conduct military exercises by singing songs that are hostile to members of opposition parties. These exercises are carried out during the day and in places accessible to the public, proof that the militia no longer seek to hide like the previous months and years (cf report Sos-Torture Burundi N ° 77: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nume%CC%81ro-77-en-En.pdf>).

SOS-Torture Burundi also notes the complicity of the local administration as well as the police authorities who let the members of the imbonerakure militiamen utter threats.

4. Germain Rukuki victim of injustice and arbitrary detention

SOS-Torture Burundi learned about the continued detention of Germain Rukuki, a former member of the ACAT-Burundi organization and current president of the "Njabutsa Tujane" association. The Bujumbura Court of Appeals took this decision on October 31, 2017 after a hearing in a council chamber on October 27, 2017 in Ngozi Prison where the defender is being held.

Germain Rukuki is accused of undermining the internal security of the state and rebellion supporting since his arbitrary arrest on July 13, 2017 at his home, while his accused to have collaborated with ACAT-Burundi suspended by Bujumbura power (cf. Sos-Torture Burundi report N ° 83: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nums%CC%81ro-83-En.pdf>).

However, Mr Rukuki and his lawyers have shown the Court that there is no serious evidence of guilt, since the mail exchange on which the prosecution's prosecution is based dates back to the period when the ACAT-Burundi organization was exercising legally its activities in Burundi. SOS-Torture Burundi denounces again arbitrary detention and demands the release of Mr.Germain Rukuki.



Mr. Germain Rukuki, former member of the Burundi Acat

5. Arrest and disappearance of four rebel leaders of the FPB Movement (Popular Forces of Burundi)

On 21 October 2017 in Ngora, Tanzania, four cadres of the FPB movement were arrested and until now no light has yet been established as to the circumstances of the arrest and the disappearance of the latter. These are: General Major Jérémie Ntiranyibagira, Lieutenant-Colonel Edouard Nshimirimana, Captain Libère Nzeyimana and Ms. Libérate Nijimbere.SOS-Torture / Burundi urges Tanzania to come out of silence and make it clear what happened to the four persons arrested on Tanzanian territory.



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