

REPORT No. 105 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI ISSUED ON 16 DECEMBER 2017

This SOS-Torture report covers the period ranging between 9 and 16 December 2017 concerning human rights violations in Burundi.

At least eight (8) persons were murdered during the period. Among the victims are two (2) persons whose bound bodies were found floating in Rusizi River at Buganda Commune, Cibitoke Province. The local administration did not authorize the body retrieval operation. A young student was also found murdered in Mugamba commune, several kilometers from his place of residence and after his disappearance according to his relatives.

Five (5) others were injured in grenade attacks and attempted killings in various localities.

The report also mentions persistent threats against members of the opposition, particularly the UPRONA (Union for National Progress) party faithful to MP Charles Nditije (himself forced into exile). These threats concern opponents of Kirundo province, one of whom was murdered this month after receiving the same threats.

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

- Members of the imbonerakure militiamen seriously injured Nestor Sabokwizera on Muriza Hill, Butaganzwa Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of the country) on December 8, 2017. Witnesses report that the victim was repeatedly beaten with bottles in a bistro. Mr. Sabokwizera, who is a clerk at the Butaganzwa Court of Residence, was urgently evacuated to a health center while he was bleeding.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the victim was rescued by police agents. These same agents did not, however, call the aggressors of Mr. Sabokwizera who are still free of their movements.

- Unidentified individuals attacked the customers of a bistro on the second avenue of Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune (Bujumbura city center) on the 10th of December 2017 in the evening. Witnesses report that two persons were injured.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date. This is the fourth grenade attack in a period of one week, as well as Musaga and Buyenzi zones (cf **Sos-Torture Burundi report N ° 104**:

<http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SOS-Torture-Burundi-sume%CC%81ro-104-en-Fr.pdf>.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Josiane Nikundana (24 years old) whose body was found on Vyuya Hill, Mugamba commune, Bururi province, (southern part of the country), on December 11, 2017. Relatives report that the victim is a student missing since December 8, 2017 in Kibenga quarter, Kinindo zone, Muha commune (south of Bujumbura city) where she lived.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that this is a case of forced disappearance, followed by an assassination several kilometers away from the young victim's place of residence. Police have not identified any suspects to date.





Josiane Nikundana, the girl kidnapped and found murdered several kilometers from her residence

- Individuals murdered a man on Rusekebuye Hill, Musigati Commune, Bubanza Province (western part of the country) on December 9, 2017 in the evening. Relatives report that the victim was stabbed while returning home.

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

- Jean Bosco Amudari was murdered on Bugarama hill, Rumonge commune and province on December 10, 2017. The police immediately arrested the son of the victim, Jean Claude Ntiranyibagira (20 years old), as the author of the murder.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the young man admitted the crime unpremeditated, claims to have defended his younger sister against the threats of their father. However, the Rumonge Court of First Instance sentenced the young man, who had no criminal record, to 20 years of prison for premeditated murder, in a judgment following the red handed procedure on December 13, 2017 (three days after 'arrest).

- Unidentified individuals attempted to murder Prosper Mariragora (65 years old) on Nyangurube hill, Mugege zone, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country) on 12 December 2017. Relatives report that he was seriously injured by machetes.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have announced the arrest of a suspect, Mr Fyinkiri, who is one of the last person to have seen the victim before his assault.

- SOS-Torture Burundi has learned from several witnesses the discovery of two (2) floating bodies in the Rusizi River, Ruhagarika hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on December 12, 2017. Witnesses report that both body had arms tied up. Local residents have warned local authorities, but no operation to rescue the victims has been started.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that there is a lack of will of the authorities or an attempt to hide the truth about the bodies found floating in the Rusizi River. Another similar case occurred on November 22, 2017, but the authorities also ordered residents in the area not to talk about the existence of these bodies (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 102**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nums%20CC%2081ro-102-en-En.pdf>). It is thus impossible to identify the victims, the circumstances of their assassinations as well as the perpetrators of these crimes.

- Unidentified individuals attempted to assassinate Pascal Nizigiyimana on Kimeza Hill, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo Province (north of the country) on 12 December 2017 in the evening. Witnesses report that the victim is a policeman standing guard at a position on the hill. Armed men fired twice at him, before stealing his gun and that of another colleague. Police agent Pascal Nizigiyimana was seriously injured and evacuated to the hospital.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that police have announced the arrest of a police officer whose weapon was stolen.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Kaburungu (60 years) on Buyaga Hill, Muzye Zone, Giharo Commune, Rutana Province (south-east of the country) on 12 December 2017. Witnesses report that the victim was fatally wounded in the front line.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified to date any suspect even less the motives behind the killing of this man.

- Individuals murdered Etienne in Nkenga-Busoro district, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune (south of Bujumbura city) on December 13, 2017 in the evening. Witnesses report that this man was apprehended in possession of a machete, and identified as a thief who raged in the neighborhood; before he is assassinated.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that these inhabitants were conducting night patrols at the request of the local administration. This role is normally assigned to the police. No suspects were arrested by the police.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was found in a eucalyptus field on Bambi Hill, Ngoma Zone, Murwi Commune, Cibitoke Province (northwestern) on December 14, 2017 in the early evening. Witnesses report that the victim had her arms tied up and was not identified by local residents or local administrative officials.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes, however, that the administration has ordered the burial of this man, without investigations being conducted to identify him, to know the circumstances of his assassination as well as the alleged perpetrators of this despicable act.

- Individuals attempted to murder Faustin Mpawenimana and his family on Kagazi Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province on December 14, 2017. Relatives report that their house was burned down, but the occupants escaped unharmed.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- The head of the national intelligence service at Rumonge province (south-west of the country) arrested Paul Ninganza in the center of the province on December 8, 2017. This is the Provincial Inspector of Basic and Post-basic Education. Rumonge who is also a member of the ruling party.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that Mr. Ninganza was immediately sent to the SNR cell in the city of Bujumbura, without a warrant and without explanation of the reasons for his arrest. Relatives report that he will be the victim of his promotion, among other members of the governing party CNDD FDD who wanted the position of Inspector of Education.

- The head of the national intelligence service of Cankuzo province (north-east of the country) arrested Rogatien Serufyiri in the center of Gisuru commune, Ruyigi

province (East of the country) on December 13, 2017. Relatives report that he is accused of contempt against the institutions of the Republic by the Cankuzo Prosecutor's Office.

SOS-Torture Burundi also learned that Mr. Serufyiri is a member of the Provincial Office of the FNL party faithful to Agathon Rwasa deputy in Cankuzo. He would be the victim of a dispute the day before in a bistro and its membership in the opposition.

3. Opponent politicians in Kirundo under threat

Several political leaders of the opposition party UPRONA (Union for National Progress) faithful to Charles Nditije (in exile) fear for their safety in Kirundo (north of the country) after the assassination of the party's provincial leader, Serge Barutwanayo on November 28, 2017. Relatives report that a list of opponents of Uprona to eliminate has been developed.

In this list would be Juvenal Karagira, former president of the Uprona party in Kirundo; Pastor Ryahama, former deputy of the same party and Godefroid Kubwimana, also of the Uprona party and former administrator of Kirundo commune. SOS-Torture Burundi also learned from relatives that Imbonerakure militiamen of the ruling party are responsible for developing this list of persons to execute.

Kirundo police and prosecutors must ensure the safety of the persons at risk. To date, the judicial authorities have also given no traces on the assassins of Mr. Serge Barutwanayo, stabbed several times while returning home (**cf report Sos-Torture Burundi No. 103: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num%C3%A9ro-103-en-Fr.pdf>**).



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

The SOS-Torture / Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about 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 slaughter of a hundred persons 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 city.

The affected zones 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.

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