



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT No. 108 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 6, 2018

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period ranging between 30 December 2017 and 6 January 2018 concerning cases of violations and human rights violations in Burundi.

At least fourteen (14) persons were arrested during the period in different places. Among them are eight (8) FNL party activists arrested after defending themselves in an attack by a group of militiamen Imbonerakure, youth of the ruling CNDD FDD party in Ntega commune, Kirundo province. Two (2) young men are also detained in an unidentified place after being arrested by police agents in Rugombo in the center of Cibitoke Province.

The report also mentions two (2) cases of assassinations, including an assassination following charges of theft. A police agent also opened fire on a member of the imbonerakure militiamen who assaulted and disarmed him.

SOS-Torture Burundi also notes the increasingly threatening speeches of administrative authorities against anyone considering not approving the draft revision of the Constitution launched by the Burundian government.

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

- Individuals murdered Manirakiza on Bugiga hill, Bukemba commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on 2nd January 2018. Witnesses report that this man was caught by a group of young imbonerakure militiamen after he stole a solar plate. The members of the militia beat him; in particular, they shot his eyes. After this crime, they transported the body of the victim to his home on Kibinzi hill.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that no suspects have been arrested so far. This is not the first time that persons have been murdered on charges of theft, and the police have not been investigating to arrest the alleged perpetrators.

- The lifeless body of a young child was found floating in the hot springs of Mugara, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province (south-west of the country) on January 4, 2018. Witnesses report that the young child was missing since yesterday.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not yet determined the circumstances of his death.

- A police agent opened fire on a man named Ismael Masumbuko on Rutumo Hill, Rumonge commune and province (south-west of the country) on 4 December 2017 in

the evening. Witnesses said that the victim was seriously injured in the stomach and on arm. This person, member of the imbonerakure militiamen, had just assaulted and disarmed the police agent in complicity with another militiaman.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the policeman opened fire with the weapon of another police agent to try to recover his service weapon. He was evacuated to Rumonge police station, but police officials did not report whether he is under arrest.



The injured young man (left) after assaulting a police officer (right)

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Pie Nzoyihera in the center of Makamba commune and province (south of the country) on January 1, 2018. Witnesses report that Mr. Nzoyihera was arrested following a disagreement during a discussion with the advisor of the Governor of Makamba with whom he shared a drink. The victim of arbitrary arrest is also an activist of the opposition party FRODEBU (Front for Democracy in Burundi) responsible for recruitment to the party.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that Mr. Nzoyihera is a victim of his political convictions. An administrative authority abused its powers to order the arrest of a man following a disagreement on a political subject. Sos-Torture Burundi also learned that Mr. Nzoyihera is accused of undermining the internal security of the state.

- Police agents arrested Sadoscar Ndikumwami on Birongozi hill, Rutana commune and province (south-east of the country) on January 2, 2018. He is an ambulance driver from Makamba Hospital (province). neighbor of Rutana). Witnesses report that Mr. Ndikumwami was arrested after a road accident involving the ambulance he was driving and one of the vehicles of the procession of the Burundian Minister of Public Security, where six (6) persons were injured including five (5) police agents in the Minister's guard.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not communicate the reasons for this detention if it is not this simple traffic accident for which the responsibility is not yet established by the Road Special Police "PSR".

- Police agents arrested Sultan Hamissi in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on January 2, 2018. He is the communal representative of FNL opposition party faithful to Agathon Rwaswa. Relatives report that Mr. Hamissi was arrested because of his links with four other FNL activists arrested in a bistro on December 17, 2017 (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 106**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num%C3%A9ro-106-en-En.pdf>).

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that Ruyigi's prosecutor's office, however, ordered the release of Mr. Hamissi and other FNL activists arrested in the same case on 4 January 2018.

- Police agents arrested eight (8) young men on Rukore Hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, in the north of the country, on 3 January 2018. Witnesses report that all of them are activists of the opposition FNL party members of Agathon Rwaswa. They shared a New Year's glass at the home of Samuel Mugisha (one of the arrested men) when they were assaulted by Imbonerakure militia members of the ruling CNDD FDD party. Relatives report that the arrested young men defended themselves against the attacks of militiamen armed with machetes and clubs.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have arrested the assaulted person who have claimed self-defense, but none of the members of the attackers' team has been arrested to date. Several of the members of the imbonerakure militia were wounded following the exchange of blows.



Members of the imbonerakure militia wounded after Ntega residents defend themselves against militiamen attacks

- Police agents arrested and boarded two (2) young men in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on 3 January 2018. Witnesses report that they were tied up and thrown back a pick-up registered A311APN of the national police in Cibitoke. They are alleged to have crossed the Rusizi River from the Democratic Republic of Congo with the aim of destabilizing the constitutional referendum initiated by the Burundian government.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not disclose the identity of those arrested or their place of detention. There is a risk of forced disappearance in view of the silence of the police on the situation of arrested young men.

- The judges of Mukaza Intermediate Court (Bujumbura city center) decided to keep Nestor Nibitanga in custody on January 3, 2018. Mr. Nibitanga is the former head of the regional office in the center-east of Association APRODH (Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Detained Persons); an association suspended by the Burundian government and many of whose leaders live in exile. He was arbitrarily arrested on 21 November 2017 at his home in Gitega (**see Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 102**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-numero-102-in-Fr.pdf>).

Mr. Nestor Nibitanga is imprisoned in Murembwe Prison, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) and prosecuted for violating the security of the State.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia assaulted and tortured Fidel Kaburo, nicknamed Baheza, on Ruharo Hill, Muhwazi Zone, Nyabitsinda Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of

the country) on 3 January 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that he was then taken to a police station in Nyaruganda, Nyabitsinda commune.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police still detain a man physically assaulted and illegally arrested. None of the attackers were arrested. Among the attackers, witnesses identified Ferdinand Kanani, one of the leaders of the Imbonerakure militia in Nyabitsinda commune.

3. Burundian authorities maintain threats against political discord

Sos-Torture Burundi learned that the governor of Makamba province, Gad Niyukuri, publicly threatened at a meeting anyone considering rejecting the Burundi government's draft new constitution. This administrative authority confirms that no political tolerance is allowed in Burundi, other than that of the party in power CNDD FDD. Mr Niyukuri promised sanctions to anyone who would incite the people not to adopt this draft new constitution.

These are serious threats, which give rise to fears of more severe repression in the weeks and months to come. Some imbonerakure militiamen have already been beaten by some residents in Ruyigi in particular, and activists from the FNL opposition party have also been arrested in Bubanza (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 107**: [http:// sostortureburundi\). .org / wp-content / uploads / 2017/12 / SOS-Torture-Burundi-num% C3% A9ro-107-en-En.pdf](http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num%C3%A9ro-107-en-En.pdf)).

4. Arbitrary Arrest in CANKUZO

Arrest of certain Sefu Ndayishimiye accused of collaborating with rebel groups in Rwanda. According to Sefu Ndayishimiye 's wife, her husband was arrested on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, when he went to the zone chief called him and was surrounded by police agents. Elements of national police led him to the NIS.

According to the same source, Sefu Ndayishimiye, who works as a tractor driver in the construction works at Bugesera International Airport in Rwanda, Was questioned why he did not warn the administrative authorities before going to Rwanda, also accused of giving information to the rebellion in Rwanda. For the moment, Sefu Ndayishimiye is incarcerated in the cell of the provincial police station at Cankuzo, his wife request his released



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SOS-Torture / Burundi was initiated with the objective of informing national and international opinion about the 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 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 the third term of President Nkurunziza namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura Town Hall

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