

## **REPORT N ° 98 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI RELEASED ON 21 OCTOBER 2017**

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period ranging between 21 to 28 October 2017 which concerns human rights violations in Burundi.

At least five (5) persons were murdered during the period. Among the victims are three (3) men and two (2) women including one detainee shot by a policeman in Rumonge.

The report also mentions twenty-two (22) cases of arbitrary arrests, including eleven (11) militants of the opposition party FNL (National Front for Liberation) led by Agathon Rwasa arrested in Rutana and Kabezi. In addition to these arrests, an FNL Member of Parliament was mistreated by Imbonerakure militiamen. SOS-Torture Burundi is also concerned about the forced disappearance of an active Burundian police ranked Brigadier in Muramvya province. There is a great fear that the victim will be executed because the relatives have no news and have been confused in their search for the truth about this disappearance.

The Report finally mentions the appeal of Germain Rukuki, this Friday, October 27th, 2017, by the Court of Appeal of Bujumbura which judged in iterance in Ngozi

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

- A police agent shot and killed Issa Ibrahim Nduwayo in the center of Rumonge town, southwest of the country, on October 21, 2017. Witnesses report that the agent shot a real bullet in the head, the victim died on field.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police evoke an attempt to escape the dungeon by the victim. The Rumonge prosecutor's office issued an arrest warrant against the policeman who shot Mr. Nduwayo.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Léonce Ntanguranwa whose body was found on Mayuyu Hill, Mukike Commune, Bujumbura Province on October 23, 2017. Relatives report that the victim was slaughtered.

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

- On 24 October 2017 in the evening unidentified individuals murdered Antoinette Ntaconishimiye at her home on Kijuri Hill, Burarana Zone, Matongo Commune, Kayanza Province (north-west of the country). Witnesses report that the perpetrators of the attack were armed with guns.

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

- On 23 October 2017 in the evening unidentified individuals murdered Emmanuel Rwasa in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province. Witnesses report that the victim is a thief caught in the act by a goat owner. He was killed in the property.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not indicate any possible prosecution.

- On October 26, 2017 unidentified individuals murdered Odette Sinzobakirana whose body was found on Nyamugari Hill, Buhiga Commune, Karusi Province (Central-East) . Witnesses report that the victim was strangled.

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

### 2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- on September 28 2017, Young members of the Imbonerakure militiamen illegally arrested Gertrude Buruhukiro, Madeleine Gahangage, Candide Gahangage, Sandrine and Marthe Ndaruseheye on Nyabisindu Hill and Jeanne Rurakambariye on Kirambi hill, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) . Relatives report that these young women were all tortured with clubs by these militiamen who then took them to the police cell in Bweru commune, accusing them of killing several people by poisoning.

SOS-Torture Burundi also learned that these victims were put in jail in spite of their state of health following the wounds received without a valid warrant or motive. All these women were detained in this police cell for three weeks without charges and without physical records, and then transferred on 19 October 2017 to the police station of Ruyigi province. On October 20, 2017, the women were presented to a prosecution officer who had Gertrude Buruhukiro, Madeleine Gahangage and Sandrine released.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes an illegal and abusive detention of these young women, who were also arrested by imbonerakure militiamen without any authority to carry out such operations. The police in Bweru acted in complicity with the imbonerakure militiamen, keeping them in detention for three weeks in a total irregularity and, more importantly, these poor women suffered cruel and inhuman acts of torture and cruel treatment.

- On 19 October 2017, unidentified individuals abducted a Police non-commissioned officer Gaston Cishahayo in Muramvya commune and province (center of the country) . This is a non-commissioned officer in the Burundian police assigned to the Muramvya province police station.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes a forced disappearance and a high risk of execution of the victim whose relatives have no news. Several attempts are aimed at diverting loved ones in their search for the truth about this forced disappearance.



**Gaston Cishahayo, Non-Commissioned Officer of the National Police disappeared since October 19, 2017**

- Imbonerakure militiamen of the ruling CNDD FDD party arrested five (5) members of the opposition party FNL (National Front for Liberation) on Jomati Hill, Rutana Province, south-east of the country on October 21, 2017 Witnesses said that these militiamen were acting under the supervision of the communal administrator of Rutana Isidora Nkundizanye.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the same militiamen assaulted Godeberthe Hatungimana, an elected member of Rutana and a member of the FNL party faithful to Agathon Rwasa. They ransacked his vehicle. The administrator of Rutana commune accuses these people of organizing an unauthorized meeting. This is a violation of the freedoms of movement enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, an elected member having the right to meet his constituents freely and at any time.



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-Torture Burundi also notes that this is the second deputy of the FNL to be attacked within a month by militiamen imbonerakure (cf report Sos-Torture Burundi No. 97: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nume%CC%81ro-97-en-Fr.pdf>).

- Police agents arrested six (6) other FNL opposition party activists on Nyabage Hill, Kabezi commune, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province on October 21, 2017. They are David Niyonezera, Jean Marie Vianney Ntakiyiruta Claude Butoyi, Vianney Manirambona, Audifax Ninfashije and Epimaque Ndayambaje.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the Kabezi commune police chief accuses them of organizing an illegal and unauthorized meeting. The six (6) activists were detained in the National Intelligence Service in Bujumbura province, but no charges were confirmed.

- National Intelligence Service agents arrested Jean Marie Cimpaye on Ndora Hill, Bukinanyana Commune, Cibitoke Province, northwestern on October 23, 2017. Eyewitnesses report that they loaded him into Cibitoke Provincial SNR Officer Vehicle D3978A who then took the road to the neighboring province of Kayanza (north-west of the country).

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that no reason has been advanced to the concerned to justify this arrest. Relatives report that the SNR accused the young man of having recently arrived in Cibitoke, returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). However, this accusation is not a valid reason for arrest and imprisonment. The SNR must provide the reasons for this arrest and the place of detention of Mr. Cimpaye.

- Police agents arrested five (5) students at the Kayanza Technical School (north-west of the country) on October 25, 2017. Witnesses report end that these students had suspended classes to claim additional teachers in order to conform themselves to the curriculum of their courses.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes the disproportionate use of force used before the arrests to bring the students back to school. The police have not yet communicated any charges against these students.

### 3. Justice: appeal proceedings of the human rights defender Germain RUKUKI

The roaming sitting of Bujumbura Court of Appeal heard Germain Rukuki on Friday 27/10/2017. The Public Ministry accuses him of undermining the internal security of the State and rebellion.

The Intermediate Court of Ntahangwa had confirmed the continued detention of this human rights defender on 14/08/2017, the Defense immediately appealed and requested his provisional release in accordance with the provisions of Article 110 of the Code inscribed in Burundi criminal procedure.

After the contradictory debates between the Public prosecution and the Defense lawyers, the case was taken under advisement and the verdict is expected within 48 hours as required by the law.

Germain Rukuki was arrested on 13/07/2017, spent two weeks in the jail of the National Intelligence Service before being imprisoned and transferred to Ngozi prison on 26/07/2017.

He is one of the members of Burundian civil society that has been in the country since the beginning of the crisis in April 2015.

*SOS-Torture / Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about serious human rights violations ongoing 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 slaughter 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 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.*