



SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI REPORT No. 137 PUBLISHED ON 28 JULY 2018

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period between 21 and 28 July 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations on going in Burundi. At least three persons were murdered during the period in different localities.

Among the victims is a 7 years boy killed in Rutana. A rebel group has also attacked Buringa zone where a Burundian army barracks is located.

Members of imbonerakure militiamen are pointed out in three cases of torture, including a couple in Ruyigi provinces. In the latter case, a hill chief is suspected to be the leader of the group who assaulted the couple.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered a young boy named Ntirampeba (7 years) whose body was found on Maramvya hill, Kinzanza zone, Gitanga commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on 21 July 2018. Relatives report that the victim was slaughtered.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date, nor determined the motives and circumstances of the boy's murder.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Vital Muhitira (60 years) at his home on Muyombwe Hill, Butare Zone, Bukemba Commune, Rutana Province (south-east of the country) on 21 July 2018. Eyewitnesses report that the victim was stabbed.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date.

- An armed group attacked Buringa zone, Bubanza commune and province (west of the country) on July 22, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the armed group exchanged fire arms with soldiers of the barracks erected in the attacked locality. One soldier was wounded during these clashes.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that an armed group claimed responsibility for this attack on an independent media: the FNL movement led by Aloys Nzabampeba (Humura Burundi Magazine of the R.P.A. on July 23, 2018). Some municipalities in Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces (western and northwestern parts of the country) are often the target of attacks by unidentified armed groups, who retreat into neighboring forests or cross the border to Democratic Republic of Congo.

- A 6years girl was sexually assaulted on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province (southern Burundi, on July 23, 2018. Relatives report that the alleged perpetrator is a domestic.

The alleged perpetrator, Pacifique Congera, was arrested by Makamba police on the decision of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

- On July 25, 2018, unidentified individuals murdered Dieudonné Niyonizeye (26 years) on Rugoma hill, Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province (center of the country). Witnesses report that the victim died after several club-blows.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that Bukirasazi police arrested the victim's parents as the main suspects.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested fourteen (14) persons in Mugina, Mabanda Commune, Makamba Province (South of the country) on 22 July 2018. Witnesses report that these persons (12 girls and women and 2 men) were preparing to cross the Burundian-Tanzanian border towards the Arab Republic of Oman.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Mabanda police have not charged the individuals arrested to date. Witnesses from the locality report that these persons were suspected of participating in human trafficking to Oman.

- Members of Imbonerakure militiamen beaten violently Calixte Nduwimana on Rugeregere hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) in the evening of 23 July 2018. Relatives report that the victim was

assaulted on his way to her home and beaten violently by militiamen armed with clubs. These young people in the ruling party accused Mr. Nduwimana for refusing to join their party CNDD-FDD.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the aggression, which caused the hospitalization of the victim. Nduwimana is also an activist of the opposition coalition Amizero y'Abarundi. This aggression is linked to the political convictions of the victim, who refused to join the ruling party. The Police have not yet arrested any suspects. Several cases of violence targeting members of the opposition and indexing the imbonerakure militiamen are regularly reported, without legal proceedings against the perpetrators.

- Members of imbonerakure militiamen attacked Jean Marie Bariyanka's home on Nyamigina hill, Kabanga zone, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on July 23, 2018. These militiamen began to beat up the occupants of the house: Mrs. Gertrude Hakizimana and Mr. Jean Marie. Relatives report that the victims have been severely beaten to the point of bleeding. Mrs. Gertrude was forced to pay 30,000 francs to the militiamen to be released and go to a health center. Witnesses report that imbonerakure militiamen conditioned Jean Marie to give them a crate of beer to be released.

Sos-Torture / Burundi notes another case of severe violence by imbonerakure militiamen. Victims of assault and battery were able to identify some of the attackers: Pierre Nzigo (Nyamigina hill chief) and Kanani (leader of the imbonerakure militia on the same hill). The police, however, did not arrest any of the alleged perpetrators.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes, however, that the militiamen transported Mr. Jean Marie to the police cell in Kabanga zone, where police agents refused to put him in jail because of his precarious health after being beaten. The police agents did not arrest the perpetrators of these blows on the spot, which indicates a helplessness or a complicity of these police agents towards the militiamen affiliated to the ruling Party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi finally notes the presence of an administrative official at the base among the aggressors. No administrative action or prosecution has been brought against Pierre Nzigo (Nyamigina hill chief), already mentioned in

other acts of aggression and torture (see Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 113: [http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num% C3% A9ro-113-en-Fr.pdf](http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num%C3%A9ro-113-en-Fr.pdf)).

- Police agents arrested Noé Ndayizeye on Murengeza Hill, Musenyi Zone, Mpanda Commune, Bubanza Province (West) on 25 July 2018. Witnesses report that members of imbonerakure militiamen accompanied by police agents during the arrest. Mr. Ndayizeye is the representative of FNL opposition party faithful to Agathon Rwasa MP of Musenyi zone.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not communicate to relatives the reasons for Mr. Ndayizeye's arrest. This is an arbitrary arrest, related to the political convictions of the victim.

3. Police officer utters serious death threats

Sos-Torture/Burundi learned of the death threats made by the police commissioner of the central region of Burundi. Witnesses report that the police officer addressed these threats during a security meeting in Nyamugari quarter, Gitega commune and province (center of the country) on July 26, 2018. The Commissioner explicitly told to the people present at the meeting that anyone who would be caught with a weapon "will not be handed over to justice" but will be "killed on the spot".

These are serious threats from an authority charged with enforcing public order and the law. These death threats give rise to fears of ongoing or future violations on the motives of tracking suspected terrorists. Hierarchical authorities of the Central Region Commissioner have taken no action since the announcement of these death threats.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes an impunity enjoyed by civilian and police officials, despite the serious hate speech and death threats made in public. Sos-Torture/Burundi recalls the very recent case of release of Mr. Melchiade Nzopfabushe. This ruling party official was released after 2 months of detention after being sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment for threatening internal security, death threats and hate speech (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 132**: http://sostortureburundi.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/06/SOS_Torture_Burundi



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

_num%C3%A9ro_132.pdf and the 2nd quarterly report 2018: http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SOS_Torture_Burundi_rapport_trimestre2_Juillet_2018.pdf).

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, arbitrary arrests, enforced 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 that of December 12, 2015 by police and military on the pretext of pursuing rebels who came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital city

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

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