

SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N ° 195 PUBLISHED ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 31 August to 7 September 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least nine (9) people were murdered during the period in different localities. Among the victims were five men whose bodies were found at a gold mining site in Cibitoke. Two other people were killed in the town of Bujumbura in two different neighbourhoods. This report also refers to the case of a victim of rape in Bubanza.

The report also raises the case of a beating orchestrated by the communal administrator of Bwambarangwe (Kirundo) and whose victims are three young girls.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered five people whose bodies were found on nderama Hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on 28 August 2019. Relatives report that three victims have been identified: Thimotheé Nsenga, Nkurunziza and Nsenga from Bukinanyana commune. The other two victims were men from Mabayi commune who could not be identified by the inhabitants of the locality where their bodies were found.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the local administration had ordered the burial of the five persons without identification of two victims. Witnesses report that the victims were all gold miners because their bodies were at a gold mining site in Bukinanyana. The police did not identify any suspects or determine the circumstances of their murder.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Samuel Bapfekurera whose body was discovered on Ruseka Hill, mabayi commune, Cibitoke province on August 31, 2019. Relatives report that the victim is a member of Batwa community.

Sos-Torture/Burundi noted that Mabayi police announced the arrest of five people during the investigation.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was found in the street in Twinyoni Quarter, Kamenge zone, Ntakangwa commune (north of Bujumbura City) on 2 September 2019. Witnesses report that the victim was not identified by local residents.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police also did not identify the victim or the perpetrators.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Edward Niyonabonye whose body was discovered in zone 9, Ngagara, Ntakangwa Commune on September 2, 2019. Eyewitnesses report that the victim had knife wounds on his body.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date. Relatives report that Mr. Niyonabonye lived in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province (western part of the country).

- Unidentified individuals murdered Joseph NDIKURIYO whose decomposing body was found at the 12th crossroad of Rusiga Hill on the banks of Rusizi River on September 7, 2019.

The victim is known to be one of the leaders of Imbonerakure militiamen of Kagazi Hill, Rugombo Commune, province Cibitoke.

- A 17 years girl (L.) was raped in the centre of Bubanza commune and province (western part of the country) on the evening of 3 September 2019. Relatives report that the executioner committed this act in a bar called CREDO.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Members of the imbonerakure militiamen beat Jean Pierre Nsengiyumva in the Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province on 30 August 2019. Relatives report that the victim is an activist of the opposition party CNL. Among his torturers was Gatumba zone Leader.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes violence inflicted on the victim and the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of the beatings. Mr. Nsengiyumva was subsequently taken to custody at Rukaramu police cell where he is being detained despite his injuries.

- The communal administrator of Bwambarangwe, Kirundo province (north of the country) kidnapped and beat up three girls in his office on 2 September 2019. Relatives report that girls are Joséphine Mfukamensabe, Vestine Muhawenimana and Alphonsine Niyonsenga had been summoned by the administrator, Ms Fébronie Niyingabiye, to explain their presence at the official opening ceremonies of CNL opposition party in Bwambarangwe. The head of administration ordered them to lie down face to face and began to beat them with a stick. Witnesses report that one of the girls, Josephine Mfukamensabe, was evacuated in agony to the hospital.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes violence inflicted by the communal authority on young students. This is further evidence of the violence suffered by members of the opposition and especially by CNL party and its supporters. Sos-Torture/Burundi further notes the impunity enjoyed by the communal administrator of Bwambarangwe, who has not been investigated to date



Joséphine Mfukamensabe, one of the girls beaten by the administrator of Bwambarangwe.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on serious human rights violations in Burundi through monitoring reports on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform on 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 military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected zones are said to be the protestors of the third term of President Nkurunziza, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Town Hall of Bujumbura.

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