



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N °196 PUBLISHED ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 7 to 14 September 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least four (4) people were murdered during the period in different localities. Among the victims were three men and a girl murdered in Cibitoke. Another 7-years girl was raped in Bubanza.

The report also raises cases of torture: the victims are members of the opposition and their executioners are members of the imbonerakure militiamen and a provincial official of the National Intelligence service.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man on Muyange Hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) during the night of 7 September 2019. Witnesses report that the victim is a sentry guarding a kiosk and the goods it contains.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Mugina police had not identified any suspects to date, but referred to the robbery as the motive behind the assassination.

- A 7 years' girl was raped on Muhenga Hill, Buvyuko zone, Bubanza commune and province (western part of the country) on 7 September 2019. Relatives report that the victim had been assaulted before.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the alleged aggressor was identified as a 23 years old man.

- Ephrem (17 years) was murdered on Musenyi Hill, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province (western part of the country) on 8 September 2019 during the night. Eyewitnesses report that the victim was fatally wounded with machetes while watching over an oil palm field.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Mpanda police announced the arrest of a suspect without disclosing his identity.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Baratorora on Nyamiyaga Hill, Bamba zone, Rutovu commune, Bururi province (south of the country) on 10 September 2019 during the night. Witnesses report that the victim was struck several times with machetes that caused his death during his evacuation to a health centre.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the perpetrators of this assassination have not been identified to date.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a girl whose body was found on Nyavyamo Hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on 11 September 2019.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- The head of National Intelligence service of Mwaro province (centre of the country) tortured Étienne Gahungu in the offices of SNR office in Mwaro on 4 September 2019. Relatives report that he was arrested on 27 August 2019 on political grounds as he was accused of holding night meetings. Mr Gahungu is in charge of the ideology and propaganda of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party in Rusaka.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence suffered by the victim, who had to be treated by ICRC staff. To this day, this member of the opposition remains held in the SNR's cell by his torturer.

- Members of imbonerakure militiamen beat Innocent Nininahazwe and Paul in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on 8 September 2019. Relatives report that the two men are victims of no longer supporting the ideology of ruling party CNDD-FDD. They were then taken to the police cell in Kayogoro.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence inflicted by militiamen and the impunity they enjoy. The police in Kayogoro were also complicit in the actions of imbonerakure



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militiamen by locking up Messrs. Nininahazwe and Paul, while letting their attackers go free.

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 11 and 12 December, 2015 by the 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.