

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N° 197 PUBLISHED ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 14 to 21 September 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least one person was murdered in Gitega province. The report also refers to ten (10) cases of arbitrary arrests, including a journalist detained for a few hours during an investigation.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered Julien Ndegeya on Kivuvu Hill, in Bugendana commune, Gitega province, on the evening of 15 September 2019.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Amisi Karihungu was arrested by the head of National Intelligence service of the Central Province of Gitega. This is the reporter-correspondent of radio Culture. Relatives report that he was arrested while gathering information on arrests carried out by the police during the day.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the journalist was released in the evening.

- Police agents arrested eight people (7 men and 1 woman) in Nyakamba neighborhood, Rumonge commune and province (southwest of the country) on 14 September 2019. Witnesses report that all of these individuals are believers in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church who had challenged the forced appointment of a new leader for their church.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the interference of the police and administration of Rumonge in the internal management of a church and the persecution of the faithful. They were released on 16 September 2019 without any explanation as to why they were detained.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

- Police agents arrested Venant Irakoze in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province (central-east of the country) on 15 September 2019. Relatives report that he is accused of possessing a weapon, in this case a grenade was allegedly discovered at his home. Mr Irakoze is the communal Secretary of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party. Witnesses report that he is the victim of a montage orchestrated by a local member of imbonerakure militiamen.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Mr. Irakoze was sentenced to 4 years in prison in a trial with fragrance procedure that took place the day after his arrest, thus depriving him of a pre-judicial investigation that could determine whether the device belonged to the accused.

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