

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N ° 201 PUBLISHED ON 19 OCTOBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 12 to 19 October 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least four (4) people were murdered in Cibitoke province. The victims were not identified and their bodies were found floating in a river. Another man escaped an assassination attempt in Kirundo; his attacker remains free.

The report also refers to five (5) cases of arbitrary arrests, all of which are members of the opposition, including local leaders. Members of imbonerakure militiamen are also cited for violent assaults.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- An individual attempted to assassinate Essau Mvuyekure (50 years) on Mutara Hill, Kirundo Municipality and province (north of the country) on 16 October 2019 in the evening. Relatives report that the aggressor, identified as Gérard Minani, local leader of imbonerakure militiamen, used a pang to defeat the victim. Mr. Mvuyekure was seriously injured and left for dead.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the victim was rescued by local residents who transported him to hospital. The police have not apprehended the main suspect to date, yet identified by the victim. Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the complicity of the security forces in the acts committed by the militiamen of the party in power.

- Unidentified individuals murdered four (4) people whose bodies were found floating in Rusizi River at Nyamitanga Hill, Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on 17 October 2019. Witnesses report that the victims were bound.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the administrative authorities ordered the burial of the victims, without allowing their identification or investigations that could reveal the identity of their executioners.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Guillaume Bucumi in Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) on 9 October 2019. Relatives report that Mr. Bucumi is an active militant of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that he is being detained in the town of Rumonge province, but has not been informed of the reasons for his arrest.

- On 10 October 2019 members of imbonerakure militiamen beat up a nurse named Salvator in the centre of Bubanza commune and province (western part of the country). Witnesses report that the victim had to be hospitalized following a fracture of one of the pelvic bones.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police apprehended the militiamen Claude and his son Meshak, both perpetrators of the beatings, but released them the following afternoon without any follow-up. Relatives of the victim report that the militiamen of the ruling party have boasted of being untouchable by the forces of law and order.

- On 13 October 2019 Police agents arrested Gabriel Nyandwi in Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province (southwest of the country). He is a demobilized and active member of the opposition CNL party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that he is being detained at Gitaza police cell without knowing the reasons of his arrest.

- On 13 October 2019 Police agents arrested Mathias Minani in Cewe zone, Kirundo Commune and province (north of the country). Witnesses report that he was arrested after clashes between members of the opposition CNL party, of which he is a member, and members of the imbonerakure militiamen. The latter had just disrupted an activity to open the CNL party's office in Cewe.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the systematic harassment of members of the opposition, in particular those of CNL, committed by members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party in complicity with members of the security forces.

- On 13 October 2019 members of imbonerakure militiamen tortured Chadrack Niyonkuru on Kinzanza Hill, Gitanga commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country). Relatives report that the victim was able to identify his torturers: the militiamen Claude and Sadock accused him of having left the ruling CNDD-FDD party to join the opposition CNL party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not detain any of the alleged perpetrators, as evidence of their complicity in the abuses committed by members of the party in power.

- Police agents arrested Célestin Niyongabo in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province (southwest of the country) on 15 October 2019. Relatives report that he is the communal representative of the opposition CNL party. He is accused of preparing for a meeting attended by the chair of that party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest of which the victim is targeted because of his membership in the opposition. Mr. Niyongabo is being detained in the provincial police cell in Rumonge.

- On 17 October 2019 Police agents arrested Felix Nduwimana in the centre of Rutovu commune, Bururi province (south of the country). Relatives report that he is the communal representative of the opposition CNL party. Witnesses also report that during this operation, the representative of the imbonerakure militia of the Rutovu commune was on hand to supervise the arrest.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrest without cause to date.



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 the 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 city.

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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