



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

### **REPORT NO. 203 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 2 NOVEMBER 2019**

This report of Sos-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 26 October to 2 November 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least six (6) people were murdered during the period. Among the victims were three clients of a bar in the town of Bujumbura who were killed in an armed attack, as well as a young mother who was shot dead at her home in Bujumbura.

The report also refers to thirteen (13) cases of arbitrary arrest. Eleven of these people were rounded up after the assassination attempt on Zone Leader Muyira.

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

- Unidentified gunmen tried to assassinate the man named Gédéon not far from his home on the Hill and Muyira area, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province on the evening of October 25, 2019. This is zone chief Muyira. Relatives report that he was injured and evacuated to hospital following the attack.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Muyira police arrested at least eleven (11) people on 27 October 2019, suspected of being behind the attack. Relatives of those arrested are concerned about the mass arrests and their swift transfer to Mpimba Central prison.

- On 28 October 2019 police agents shot dead his child (an infant) and seriously injured his wife in the commune of Giharo, Rutana province (south east of the country). Family reports he used his service weapon.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police in Giharo apprehended the assassin.

- Armed gunmen shot and killed Ms. Évangéline Inamahoro at her home in Kanyosha district, Muha commune (southern Bujumbura) on the evening of 30 October 2019. Witnesses report the victim died right away.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the Kanyosha police have not identified any suspects to date. Mrs. Inamahoro had three children.



*Evangéline Inamahoro, shot in her home in Kanyosha*

- Unidentified individuals murdered Charles Bahintashima, whose body was discovered on The Hill of Kibande, in Bukinyanya commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on 1 November 2019. Relatives report that he received fatal blows to the head and was tied to a tree by his executioners.

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

- Armed and unidentified individuals attacked a bar located on Muyinga avenue, Rohero area, Mukaza commune (centre of the town of Bujumbura) on 1 November 2019 during the evening. Witnesses report that three people died immediately and four others were seriously injured.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a brutal attack in the middle of Bujumbura. Witnesses report that the perpetrators used grenades and shotguns before fleeing. The victims are Joseph Hicuburundi aka Mugamba, Melchisédech Ntaraka, an employee of the BRB (Bank of the Republic of Burundi) and Juvénal Ngoragoze.



*Two of the victims of the armed attack in downtown Bujumbura*

## 2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Members of the imbonerakure militia beat up Vénuste Hitimana on Kigaza Hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on the evening of 23 October 2019. Witnesses report identifying the perpetrators of the beatings: militia Bukuru and Elias Niyungeko, the local secretary of the ruling CNDD FDD party named Sophonie Ndagane and the hill leader Dieudonné Kwizera. The victim is an active member of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence inflicted by the militias of the ruling party, as well as the complicity of the authorities and local police. Mr. Hitimana was indeed taken to the police cell in Kayogoro commune where he spent a night. None of the alleged perpetrators were brought to justice for their actions. Relatives report that the victim had previously been threatened by these militiamen who accuse him of promoting the ideology of the CNL party.

- Agents of the National Intelligence Service arrested Jean Seburakeye (61) in the center of the city and province Gitega on October 27, 2019. Witnesses report that he was arrested without a warrant on his way to work. He is believed to be a victim of his Rwandan origins.



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Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest and the fact that Mr. Seburakeye has been a victim of poor relations between Burundi and Rwanda since the beginning of the crisis in 2015. He is accused of spying for Rwanda and of holding a Burundian identity card. According to his relatives, Mr. Seburakeye has been living in Burundi since he was 2 years old; he studied and founded his family in Burundi. The victim was briefly incarcerated in the NRS office in Gitega before being taken to the Gitega police cell.

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 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.