

REPORT N ° 204 OF SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 9 NOVEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 2 to 9 November 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least seven (7) people were murdered during the period. The victims are a member of the opposition MSD party killed in Kayanza; five people (5) whose lifeless bodies were found on the banks of the Rusizi river and an unidentified man whose rotting body was discovered in a house in Rutana.

The report also refers to cases of arbitrary arrests, including a round-up in which eighty (80) people were arrested. Among those arrested was also the vice-president of the Electoral commission of Bururi province.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered five people whose bodies were found on the banks of Rusizi river on cross-section 10 on rusiga Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on 2 November 2019. Witnesses report that the victims were all tied up.

Sos-Torture/Burundi noted that the bodies had been buried without any prior investigation leading to the identification of the victims.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Casimir Busabusa on The Hill Kivuvuma, gahombo commune, Kayanza province on the evening of 5 November 2019. Relatives report that he was killed not far from his home.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police had arrested three suspects in connection with the case, all of whom were members of the CNDD-FDD party, including an agent of the National Intelligence service. The victim was also a legal representative of the Agape Church in Gahombo, but also a member of the opposition MSD party (movement for solidarity and Democracy).



Mr. Casimir Busabusa, shot in front of his home in Gahombo

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was found in a house in Kigwati district, commune and Rutana province (southeast of the country) on 7 November 2019. Witnesses report that the victim's body was decomposing. The executioners strangled him and locked the house where they abandoned the body.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police and local authorities, as well as his alleged tormentors have not identified the victim.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Ms. Jacqueline Ntakirutimana at her home on muzima Hill, Muzenga zone, Bururi Commune and province (south of the country) on 4 November 2019. She is the vice-president of CEPI-Bururi independent provincial electoral commission. Relatives report that she is accused of having played a role in the assassination of a certain Salvator Niyongabo on 1 November 2019.

Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned that Ms. Jacqueline Ntakirutimana is a member of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom) and that she had opposed a few days before her arrest to the appointment of members of different CEPI, the dismemberment of CEPI-Bururi. She had questioned the over-representation of the ruling CNDD-FDD party at the expense of other opposition parties, including the CNL.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police had provided no evidence of his involvement in Mr. Niyongabo's assassination. Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Ms. Ntakirutimana was finally released on 6 November 2019.

- Police agents arrested Olivier Nduwayezu (20 years) on the Hill Muzye, Giharo commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on 4 November 2019. Witnesses report that the young man, of Rwandan origin, was violently bound before being taken on board.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police in Giharo did not inform the person concerned of the reasons for his arrest.



Olivier Nduwayezu arrested in Giharo

- On 4 November 2016 Police agents arrested Jonas Nzambimana on Muhuta Hill, Muhuta Commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country). Witnesses report that Mr. Nzambimana is a communal representative of the CNL Party (National Congress for Freedom).

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

- Police and military agents raided several households in Mparambo hills II, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on 6 November 2019 and Witnesses report that at least eighty (80) people were arrested during the operation, including 10 people of Rwandan origin who have been living in Rugombo for some 20 years.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests aimed at maintaining fear and conducting robberies. Several witnesses reported that police agents had stolen property and money during the searches. In addition, each of the arrested persons was forced to pay between 2,000 and 5,000 francs for his release. The same witnesses report that the households of members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party have not been searched.

- Members of imbonerakure militiamen beat up Issa Wizeyimana and Gabriel on Gitete Hill, in Busoni commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on 6 November 2019. Relatives report that militiamen intercepted them as they were returning from a visit to Sigu Hill. In addition to the beatings, both victims were robbed of their property. One of the victims, Issa Wizeyimana, is the representative of the opposition party CNL on gitete Hill.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not detain any of the alleged perpetrators of the beatings, although the victims identified them: these are the militiamen Issa Birabahejuru, Richard Nyabenda, Anatole Niyonzima and Thérance Nzeyimana.



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 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 zone 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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