



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT NO. 205 OF SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 16 NOVEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 9 to 16 November 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during the period. The victims are a baby and a man whose bodies were floating in Rweru River in the northern Burundi, as well as a woman who was raped and murdered by her executioners in Muramvya.

The report also refers to cases of arbitrary arrests, including a round up that led to the arrest of some 30 members of the opposition party CNL in Ngozi province. SNR agents also abducted the son of a well-known Burundian political opponent.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Two people were murdered by gunmen whose bodies were found floating in Lake Rweru on the side of Sigu Hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on 14 November 2019. Witnesses report that the victims were a baby and a man wearing a suit. The bodies were not recovered, although witnesses alerted local authorities.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the negligence of the administrative authorities, which made it impossible to identify the bodies and to know the circumstances of their death.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Marie Claire Niyongere (40) whose body was found in a bush on Nyavyamo Hill, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province (Central) on 12 November 2019. Relatives report that the victim was raped before being murdered by his executioners.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a violent attack on an opposition member: Ms. Niyongere was secretary of the women's League of the opposition CNL party. Police have announced the arrest of a suspect.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Agents of the National Intelligence Service abducted Lambert Bibonimana near his home in Kiriri district, Rohero zone, Mukaza commune (centre of the city of Bujumbura) on 7 November 2019. Relatives report that the young man was returning at the time of his arrest by the agents who have embarked in a vehicle with tinted windows. The victim of abduction is the son of Léonce Ngendakumana, a Burundian political opponent and candidate in the 2020 presidential elections for FRODEBU (Front for Democracy in Burundi) party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned from relatives that the young man was subsequently taken to the dungeon of the Bujumbura police station. He is accused of having participated in an attack against the head of Muyira zone (Bujumbura rural).



Lambert Bibonimana, abducted by the SNR and detained in Mpimba prison

- Police agents arrested at least thirty-one (31) people in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province (north of the country) on 13 November 2019. Witnesses report that the targeted persons are activists of the CNL Party (National Congress for Freedom). Among those arrested, 13 are detained in the police cell of Marangara commune, Ngozi province. They are Emmanuel Ntirandekura, Zidane Ishimwe, Vincent Ndayisaba, Elias, Sibomana, Innocent Ciza, Daniel Rwsa, Fabien Miburo, David Rwsa, Gabriel Minani, Emmanuel Rwsa, Emmanuel Karenzo, Stephen Kabura and Genevieve

Niyimpaye. The other members of CNL party arrested were detained in the centre of the commune of Ngozi (10), in the commune of Nyamurenza (5) and in the commune of Gashikanwa (3). During the arrest operations, witnesses report that the communal administrator of Nyamurenza and the leader of imbonerakure militia of the ruling party CNDD-FDD in the commune of Ngozi were personally involved.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary arrests based on the political affiliation of the victims, which is also a sign of intolerance displayed by the members of the party in power towards the opposition.

- Sos-Torture/Burundi learned of the night transfer of detainees from the special search brigade (BSR) prison in Bujumbura to an unknown destination on 13 November 2019. Witnesses report that the people released from their dungeon are Sophie Niyonkuru, Jeanine Musonera, Isidore Ndayisenga and Lambert Bibonimana. Relatives report that they are all members of the CNL opposition party and residents of Kiriri-Vugizo district.
- Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a risk of Enforced Disappearance of these persons. The police did not indicate the destination of these detainees.



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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 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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