

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT NO. 206/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 16 to 23 November 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least ten (10) people were murdered during the period. The victims were mainly soldiers whose positions were attacked by heavily armed men in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The report also refers to two (2) cases of arbitrary arrests: a member of the opposition CNL party and a motorcycle repairer, all from Gitega.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- A heavily armed group attacked two military positions forming two battalions on the gafumbegeti and Gitukura Hills, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on the night of 16-17 November 2019. Witnesses report that the armed group killed several soldiers. The Burundian authorities have reported that eight soldiers were killed in the attack and several dozen others are missing. Among the soldiers killed was Major Révérien Ngomirakiza, commander of the attacked company. The soldiers who went missing at the time of the attack may have died, according to several witnesses.

Sos-Torture/Burundi noted that no armed group had claimed responsibility for the attack. The residents of Mabayi had to flee from fear for their safety.

- Gunmen attacked customers in a bar located in Ngagara zone, ntahangwa commune (northern Bujumbura) on the evening of 17 November 2019. Two (2) people were injured and evacuated to a hospital for treatment.

Sos-Torture/Burundi noted that the police have not apprehended any suspects to date. This is the second attack on a bar in Bujumbura in less than a month.

- On 19 November 2019 an unidentified individual(s) murdered Sylvère Niyongendako (52ans) on Biganda Hill, in the town and province of Muramvya (central part of the country). Relatives report that the victim was evacuated to a hospital but did not survive.

Sos-Torture/Burundi noted that the police in Muramvya had arrested the victim's son, Dieudonné Kwizera, who was allegedly the main suspect.

- Marius Bukuru was assassinated with machetes on Bugera Hill, Ndava commune, Mwaro province (central part of the country) on 20 November 2019. Eyewitnesses report that the victim was caught in an attempt to steal cows. The locals took the law into their own hands by asserting him several times with machetes.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Abdallah Hajayandi at his home in Nyamugari quarter, Gitega commune and province (central part of the country) on 14 November 2019. Relatives report that the police searched his home without finding anything suspicious. Mr. Hajayandi asked these officers to show them a search warrant and charged him with "defamation".

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary and illegal arrest. Mr. Hajayandi is also a member of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party, which suggests that this is the real reason for his detention.

- Police officers arrested Bernard Bishariza in the centre of Bugendana commune, Gitega province (central part of the country) on 17 November 2019. Witnesses report that Mr. Bishariza, a motorcycle repairperson, was beaten during his arrest.

Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned from relatives that he is accused of having spent several months in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is however not an offence. Mr. Bishariza is a victim of arbitrary detention.



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 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 centre, The Town Hall of Bujumbura.

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