



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT NO. 208 OF SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 7 DECEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 30 November to 7 December 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least one person was murdered during the period: a man who received several shots of clubs. The report also refers to cases of arbitrary arrests and attacks by members of the imbonerakure militia.

At least fourteen (14) members of the opposition CNL party have been arrested in various locations. Three (3) other members of this party were also injured after being beaten by militiamen from the ruling party.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered Déo Ndaruzaniye whose body was discovered in a stream between Ngoro and Mpanuka hills, Ndava commune, Mwaro province (central part of the country) on 4 December 2019. Witnesses report that the victim received several blows to the head with clubs.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- On 28 November 2019 Police officers arrested Eric Mpawenimana, Bernard Nduwimana, Léonidas Bizimana, Marcelline Bucumi and Divine Nduwimana with her baby at their homes on Ndago and Mago Hills, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province (east of the country). Witnesses report that the Nyabitsinda communal police commissioner conducted the operation and the local leader of the imbonerakure militiamen named Viateur Nizigama. The arrested persons are members of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party, who were arrested after a provocation fight by the Imbonerakure militiamen five days before.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary arrests which constitute reprisals against members of the opposition and also notes the complicity of police officers in acts of reprisal carried out by the militias of the ruling party. Sos-Torture/Burundi has also learned that Ms. Marcelline Bucumi and Divine Nduwimana with her baby were arrested in place of their husbands who left before the arrest.

- On the evening of 1 December 2019 members of imbonerakure militias beat up Louis Mutokambari and Donatien Nkurunziza on Mukingo hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province (south of the country). Witnesses report that the communal Secretary of the CNDD-FDD Party of communal Kayogoro led the militiamen named Elysée Kadoyi.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of beatings and the arbitrary detention of the same victims of beatings. There are no charges to justify the detention of these two men, who are victims of their membership of the opposition CNL party.

- Police have arrested Donatien Ndarushimana, Ezekiel Sinzinkayo, Pierre Ndikumagenge, and Ms. Évelyne Siwazuri on the hills Mvugo, Mukungu and Rangi of the commune of Nyanza lac, province of Makamba, on 2 December 2019. Relatives report that the targeted persons are activists of the opposition CNL party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests targeting only members of CNL party. These cascading arrests of opponents are only months away from the 2020 general election.

- Members of the imbonerakure militias beat Claver Nizigama, Juvenal Bigirumwami and Audace Ndayirorere on Taba Hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province (Centre of the country) on the evening of 3 December 2019. Witnesses report that the militiamen broke into a bar where the victims were, and beat them up by accusing them of refusing to join the ruling CNDD-FDD party. The three men beaten are members of the opposition party CNL.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence inflicted by militiamen from the ruling party and the complicity of police officers. The victims lodged a complaint against their attackers, including the militiaman Nicodème Niyonkuru, who was in charge of the operation, but the police did not follow up on their complaint.



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- Police officers arrested Jean Claude Nsengiyumva and two of his neighbours at their homes in Gitaza zone, Commune Muhuta, province Rumonge (south-west of the country) on 3 December 2019. Witnesses report that police officers surrounded some of the targeted houses around 4 a.m. Mr Nsengiyumva is a member of the opposition party CNL. A search of his home did not result in any seizure. The police, however, brandished a pouch containing five cartridges; claim to have found it behind the House.
- Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a politically motivated arbitrary arrest of Mr. NSENGIYUMVA and his two neighbours.

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.