

REPORT NO. 209 SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 14 DECEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 7 to 14 December 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during the period. All the victims are identified, but the perpetrators are not. A Burundian senator also attempted to assassinate two (2) people, including his wife, before striking a dozen others during his car flight.

The report also refers to cases of arbitrary arrest: at least thirteen (13) cases are recorded. All but one of these cases concern active members of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered Emmanuel Madagasha whose body was found floating in Ruvyironza River near the banks of nyamugari Hill, Ryansoro commune, southwest of Gitega province on December 7, 2019. Witnesses report that the victim was buried on the same hill by decision of the local administrative authorities.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police had not yet determined the circumstances of Mr. Madagasha's death or the possible perpetrators of his murder.

- A senator named Gahungu tried to assassinate his wife and a visitor at his home in Gatunguru district, Mutimbuzi commune, and Bujumbura province on December 7, 2019. Witnesses report that he beat the two victims before fleeing. During his escape, the senator elected in Rumonge Province (southwest of the country) wounded about ten people by striking them with his vehicle.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police arrested and imprisoned Senator Gédéon Gahungu.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Côme Ndikuriyo (60 years) in front of the entrance of his home on Mujigo Hill, Buyengero Commune, Rumonge Province (southwest of the country) on the evening of December 7, 2019. Witnesses report that the assassins used a grenade.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police in Buyengero had arrested two young men from the neighbourhood for investigation in the aftermath of the assassination. They are Eric Nkengurutse and Patrick Manirakiza.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Siméon Nkurikiye whose body was discovered on Nyacambuko Hill, Buyengero Commune, Rumonge province on 8 December 2019. Relatives report that the victim was reported missing since Friday, December 6, 2019. The local government ordered his burial the same day.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police of Buyengero announced the arrest of 4 suspects in connection with this assassination

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Philippe Bucumi, Chadrak Niyonkuru, Eric Nshimirimana, Élie Ntakirutimana, Salvator Bivugire and Emmanuel Ntahonsangiye on Kanazi Hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province (western part of the country) on 8 December 2019. Relatives report that all are members of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party accused of having painted the previous day the permanence of their party which was to be officially inaugurated.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary arrests orchestrated by members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party. Witnesses report that during the arrests, the militia imbonerakure as well as the elected collinaires helped the police officers. They are Donatien Ngendakuriyo, head of Kanazi Hill and his deputy Eraste Ngendakumana as well as the local leader of the imbonerakure militia David Nsengiyumva.

- Police agents arrested Denis Ndikumana and Diomedes Hatungimana in the centre of Rusaka commune, Mwaro province (central part of the country) on 9 December 2019. Relatives report that they are both members of the opposition CNL party. Witnesses also report that the operation was led by the communal administrator of Rusaka (a member of the ruling CNDD-FDD party).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police had given no reasons for the arrests.

- Police agents arrested Berchimas Nsabimana in the centre of Rusaka commune, Mwaro province on 10 December 2019. Relatives report that he is a member of the opposition CNL party. Mr. Nsabimana is an observer, on behalf of his party, at the election enrolment Office of the Ecofo Rusaka I basic school.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that he was accused of defamation. Sos-Torture/Burundi also learned of the arrests of Ms. Anatolie Gakobwa and Richard Gahungu in the same commune of Rusaka on 12 December 2019. They are both members of the CNL party and are also accused of defamation and insults to the institutions. These are likely new victims of increased political intolerance directed at members of the opposition, particularly members of the CNL.

- Agents of the National Intelligence Service arrested Rémy Havyarimana and Patrick Kanyabwero on the evening of 11 December 2019. The first was arrested near his home in the kizingwe-Bihara district, Kanyosha area before being taken in a vehicle registered D6394A; and the second in the Kajiji District of the Kanyosha area, Muha commune (south of the city of Bujumbura). Relatives report that Mr. Havyarimana is Secretary of the opposition CNL party in Kanyosha. Mr. Kanyabwero is a collinarian in Kajiji.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests: Mr. Havyarimana is a victim of his political affiliation and Mr. Kanyabwero is accused of refusing to cooperate in the hunt for and harassment of members of the opposition.



Rémy Havyarimana, arrested by SNR agents near his home in Kanyosha.



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 of 11 and 12 December, 2015 by 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.

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