



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

### **REPORT N ° 210 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 21 DECEMBER 2019**

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 14 to 21 December 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least two (2) people were murdered during the period. One of the victims has not been identified. Another girl was raped in Bubanza province.

The report also refers to cases of arbitrary arrests: at least five (5) cases are recorded, four of which concern political observers of the voter registration process in Rumonge province.

#### **1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity**

- A young student was raped on the Migereka sub-Hill, Shari Hill, Commune and Bubanza province (western part of the country) on 15 December 2019. Witnesses report that the alleged perpetrator is another student of the Bubanza Technical School.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the Bubanza police announced the arrest of the alleged author, the owner of the house where the rape was committed and other alleged accomplices.

- The body of Désiré Nibitanga (23 years old) was discovered near the Murembwe River on Gasenyi Hill, Commune Buyengero, province Rumonge (south-west of the country) on 17 December 2019. Relatives report that the local administration immediately ordered the burial of the victim, arguing that he would be a victim of drowning.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a rush to bury the victim, without the circumstances of his death being clearly established.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was found floating in the Ruvyironza River on the side of gishuha Hill, Kiriba area, Giheta commune, Gitega province (central of the country) on 18 December 2019. Witnesses report that the victim's body was in advanced decomposition.
- Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the victim was not identified and that the local administration ordered the immediate burial of the body without prior identification. Install the app on your smartphone and use it offline.

### 2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Jérémie Ndayizigiye on the Hill Karagara, Buruhukiro area, Commune and province Rumonge (south-west of the country) on 12 December 2019. Witnesses report that Mr. Ndayizigiye, a member of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party, had just denounced irregularities in a voter registration operation in which he served as an observer for his party. It also denounced a much longer list of voters than the one registered the day before the closing of the registration process.
- Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest aimed at hiding the registration of fictitious voters in an enrolment centre. The police and enlistment officers, the majority of whom are from the ruling CNDD-FDD party, accuse Mr. Ndayizigiye of creating unrest at the enlistment office.
- Police agents arrested Jean Claude Niyongabo and Jean Bosco Bucumi on The Hill Cashi, Commune Bugarama, province Rumonge (southwest of the country) on 16 December 2019. Relatives report that the two men are also observers of the voter registration process on behalf of the CNL (opposition) and UPRONA (Union for National Progress, presidential Movement) parties. They denounced the registration of some fictitious voters at the enrolment centre in Cashi and are accused of disrupting enrolment activities.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests. The prosecutor of Rumonge also ordered the transfer of the two persons from the dungeon of Bugarama commune to the dungeon of the Rumonge police station.

- Police officers arrested Anitha Ndiokubwayo in the Minago area, municipality and province Rumonge on 16 December 2019. Witnesses report that Ms. Ndiokubwayo is an observer of the enrolment process on behalf of the CNL opposition party. She had just denounced irregularities in the centre where she was assigned as an observer.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes an arbitrary arrest aimed at covering up the accusations of irregularities in the recruitment process.



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- Police agents arrested Janvier Ndikuriyo at his home on Magara Hill, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province on 19 December 2019. Relatives report that he was charged with illegal possession of a weapon after a grenade was found in a gutter near his house.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest: Mr. Ndikuriyo is accused of "holding a weapon" yet discovered in a gutter accessible to the public.

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 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.