

## **REPORT N ° 211 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 28 DECEMBER 2019**

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 21 to 28 December 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during the period. One of the victims died in a grenade attack; the other two are victims of executions when they were abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR).

The report also refers to cases of arbitrary arrests and beatings: a student was arrested by SNR agents and an opposition member was violently beaten by imbonerakure militiamen.

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

- National Intelligence Service agents abducted two men on Ndora Hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on 22 December 2019. Witnesses, who were unable to identify the victims, reported that the SNR officer in Cibitoke was in charge of the operation. Since their abduction, the SNR has kept the victims in a secret place where the two men are tortured.

Sos-Torture/Burundi learned from several sources within the police that the two men were subsequently executed by SNR officers after three days of torture. The bodies of the two victims were allegedly packed in a bag weighted with large stones, then thrown into the Rusizi river on the side of rusiga Hill, in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province.

- An individual attacked with a grenade a space not far from the bus parking lot in the centre of the northern city of Ngozi on 23 December 2019. Witnesses report the immediate death of one person and a dozen others injured.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have announced the arrest of a suspect who is described as having a mental disability.

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

- Members of the imbonerakure militia beat up Ezekiel Nizigiyimana in front of his home on The Hill Gasenga, Bigina area, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on 20 December 2019 in the evening. Relatives report that the militia group waited for the victim in front of the entrance to his property and beat him violently. Mr. Nizigiyimana was narrowly saved by another member of the imbonerakure militia who had refused to join his comrades in the beating.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a violent attack, which caused the victim to be hospitalized as a result of his injuries. Mr. Nizigiyimana is also a member of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party, which allegedly caused the beatings. Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes the complicity of the police with the imbonerakure militia: none of the alleged perpetrators of the violent beatings were apprehended despite having been identified by the victim. They are the militiamen Josué Hakizimana, Maserege and Mateso.

- Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned of another attempt by the police to arrest Mr. Jean Seburakeye (61) in the centre of the city of Gitega on 25 December 2019. This man had already been arrested on 27 October 2019 and detained for 2 weeks on charges of spying for Rwanda and holding a Burundian identity card (see Sos report-Torture Burundi n ° 203: <https://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num%C3%A9ro-203.pdf> Mr. Seburakeye is of Rwandan origin but has lived in Burundi since 1961.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the complainant had been forced to flee his home and the province of Gitega as a result of the harassment, as well as his family.

- Agents of the National Intelligence Service arrested Guillaume Kwizera (31) in the Magarama District, Municipality and city of Gitega (Central of the country) on 25 December 2019. Witnesses report that he was arrested on his way home from Christmas Mass. The young man is reportedly accused of supplying armed groups in Rwanda.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest without a warrant or evidence of the charges against the victim. Mr Kwizera is also a member of the opposition party RANAC (National Rally for development).



## 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 the 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 City.

The affected areas 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.

SOS-TORTURE