



## **REPORT NO. 213 OF SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 11 JANUARY 2020**

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 4 to 11 January 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during the period and one victim escaped an attempt at Elimination. All victims are identified, as well as the circumstances of their murder. Their executioners, however, remain unknown to this day.

Cases of arbitrary arrest: at least seven (7) cases are recorded, in addition to a beating by members of the imbonerakure militiamen.

The report also refers to violations of the law by the Bururi Provincial Prosecutor's office, which continues to detain several persons who have been acquitted by a court decision.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered Tharcisse Macumi whose body was found hanging in a wood on Nyabututsi Hill, Gitega Commune and province (Central of the country) on 31 December 2019. Relatives report that the victim was a soldier who was assigned to the 22nd armored Battalion in Gitega.

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

- Unidentified individuals attempted to assassinate Julien Bakanibona (41) on Mwanja Hill, Kirundo Municipality and province (north of the country) on 5 January 2020 in the early evening. Relatives report that the victim was intercepted by two men just outside his home, who struck him repeatedly with machetes on his back, arm and head.

Sos-Torture/Burundi noted that the police have not identified any suspects to date. Neighbours who came to the rescue and the victim, a member of the opposition CNL party, suspected members of the imbonerakure militiamen of

being the perpetrators of the attack. They had threatened Mr. Bakanibona with reprisals if he refused to join the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Richard Tuyisenge (21) whose body was discovered in the centre of Bukeye commune, Muramvya province on January 8, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim's throat was slit.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered Frédéric Nkezabahizi (65 ans) at his home on Gisitwe Hill, ntega commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on the night of 8 January 2020. Relatives report that the victim's wife was also injured with machetes during the attack.

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

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

- Members of the imbonerakure militia beat Minani method on Gisitye Hill, Kibungere area, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province (Central) on 4 January 2020. Relatives report that he is a victim of the membership of his son named Vincent Tuhabonye to the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of members of the militia of the ruling party and the complicity of the police. Witnesses report that the leader of the CNL Party on Gisitye Hill, Berchimas Ndayishimiye, was arrested by the same militia while trying to rescue Mr. Minani; and handed over to the police to be imprisoned.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia arrested Marcel Bitariho and Jonas Manirampa on Musongati Hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province (Central) on 6 January 2020. Witnesses report that the two men, members of the opposition CNL party, are accused of listening to CNL songs recorded on their phones.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary arrests of members of the opposition, as well as the complicity of police officers. The charges against these two activists then changed to "illegal assembly".

- Members of the imbonerakure militia illegally arrested Beatrice Barengayabo on miterama Hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province on 7 January 2020. Relatives report that Barengayabo is an active militant of the opposition CNL party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi further notes the complicity of police officers in the acts committed by members of the militia of the ruling party. The victim is being held in Nyabihanga prison without just cause.

- The head of Bururi province's National Intelligence Service arrested Davis Mugenzi, Arsène Baserukiye and Claver Ndikumana in Mugamba commune, Bururi province (south of the country) on 9 January 2019. Relatives report that the first two are students of the kibezi communal High School (located in Mugamba) and the third is a retired member of the Burundian police.

### 3. Persons unlawfully detained

- Sos-Torture / Burundi learned of the prolonged and unjustified detention of five people, who were released by judicial decision of the Bururi High Court between November and December 2019.

The victims of this injustice are:

- Marc Manirakiza: he was arrested on 30 April 2019 for robbery. Despite an acquittal by the Bururi High Court on 22 November 2019, Mr. Manirakiza was held in prison by the Bururi public prosecutor's office without legal grounds.

- Elvis Ndagijimana: this man was arrested and imprisoned for grand larceny. He was acquitted by a court decision of which he was notified on 18 December 2019. He is also detained by an unjustified decision of the Bururi public prosecutor's office.

- Léonidas Nibaruta: was acquitted on 27 November 2019 after four and a half months in prison (arrest on 2 July 2019). Since that acquittal, Mr. Nibaruta has still not been released.



- Jérôme Ntampirangeza: was acquitted and notified of this decision on 15 November 2019. Since then, he has been held in detention by Order of the Bururi public prosecutor's office.
- Aegis Manirakiza: he was arrested on 2 September 2019 and prosecuted for robbery. The decision of his acquittal was served on him on 27 November 2019, but has never been enforced to date following the refusal of the Bururi public prosecutor's office.

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 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.

SOS