

SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT NO. 214 PUBLISHED ON 18 JANUARY 2020

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 January 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

The cases listed in this report relate to violations of freedoms and threats to security. At least five (5) people have been subjected to arbitrary arrests in different localities.

Violations of the right to life and the right to Liberty

Members of imbonerakure militiamen arrested Mathieu Ntakarutimana, Alberique Ntabangana and Bernard Ntahondi on Nyarunazi Hill, Kiburenge zone, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province (Central of the country) on 11 January 2020. Relatives report that the three men are members of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party. They were arrested in a liquor store after the militia of the ruling party couldn't find a drink when they arrived in this bistro.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the illegal arrests and the complicity of the police of Nyabihanga who put these three people under arrest. These men are victims of their political affiliation.

- The head of the National Intelligence service of Muramvya province arrested Cyriaque Manirakiza at his place of work at Shombo communal high school, Muramvya province (Central of the country) on 13 January 2020. Relatives report that he is a victim of his position as a provincial leader of one of Burundi's teacher unions. He opposed the non-consensual withdrawal of 500 francs per month from each teacher's pay, a proposal made by another pro-government teachers' union.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest that confirms the objective of the authorities to silence dissenting voices in all spheres of Burundian society.



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

- Members of the ruling party threaten to kill Jean-Pierre Bakundukize of Kiri Hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province (north of the country). This man is a member of the opposition CNL party. Relatives report that he refused to join the ruling CNDD-FDD party, due to threats he has been facing since the end of December 2019. This member of the opposition has been living in hiding ever since.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a risk to Mr. Bakundukize's physical security. Relatives also report that his wife was also forced to flee their home for fear of reprisals.

- Members of the imbonerakure militiamen arrested Samuel Ndikumana on cishwa Hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province (Central) on 15 January 2020. Relatives report that he is a member of the opposition CNL party. He is accused of having organized an unauthorized meeting with members of his party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest of an opposition member. Witnesses also report that he was beaten before his illegal arrest.

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.



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This initiative is to inform on the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of December 11 and that of December 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.

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