



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT NO. 215 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 25 JANUARY 2020

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 18 to 25 January 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least two (2) people were murdered during the period and one person was abducted by NRS officers in Cibitoke. One of the murdered people is a minor child.

Cases of arbitrary arrest are noted: at least six (6) cases are listed including a journalist unjustly arrested following his work.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- A police officer murdered a child (14 years old) in the Rukeco area, Busiga commune, Ngozi province (north of the country) on the night of 20 January 2020. Witnesses report that the alleged perpetrator was a dismissed agent named Issa Bigirimana who stabbed his victim while searching for his father.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the Busiga police did not arrest the alleged author who is at large.

- The head of the National Intelligence service of Cibitoke province kidnapped Paul Nzeyimana on Kagazi Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on 20 January 2020. Witnesses report that the victim had just answered a phone call and was immediately taken to a vehicle with tinted windows.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes abduction and a risk to the safety of the victim whose destination has not been communicated to the relatives.

- Unidentified individuals have assassinated Protais Maroha whose body was discovered on the Hill Nyarugera, commune and province Bururi (south of the country) on 21 January 2020. Eyewitnesses report that the victim had traces of a head wound.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Sos-Torture/Burundi learned of the illegal and prolonged detention of a father and his two sons for a month in Ngozi prison. This is Mr Kanyamakuru, a member of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party. Relatives report that he was attacked and assaulted by a group of imbonerakure militiamen. While defending himself, this member of the opposition wounded one of the militiamen before burying himself. The militiamen arrested Mr. Kanyamakuru's two sons and beat them up, forcing their father to surrender to be arrested.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary and illegal arrests of these three people following the harassment of members of the party in power. Witnesses also report that Mr. Kanyamakuru had received several threats from the imbonerakure militia who ordered him to leave the CNL party to join the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

- Police officers arrested Jean Marie Mukerandanga and Eric Ndayiragije in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on 11 January 2020. Relatives report that the two men are activists from the opposition CNL party who had received several threats from members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests, the victims of which are members of the opposition.

- The governor of Karusi province ordered the arrest of Blaise Pascal Kararumiye, journalist-correspondent of radio Isanganiro in the central-eastern part of the country on 17 January 2020. His colleagues report that he is a victim of his work as a journalist. He produced a report highlighting the misuse of funds for communal cooperatives to help people buy livestock. Mr. Kararumiye was arrested after a meeting in which the governor of Karusi had warned the perpetrators of the hijackings.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest aimed at suppressing proven embezzlement and embezzlement. Mr. Kararumiye is a victim of his work done in strict compliance with the law. The journalist was released on 20 January 2020 after appearing before the governor of Karusi, his advisers, the province's municipal administrators and the Karusi prosecutor.



Radio Isanganiro announced the release of their correspondent on 20 January 2020

The Burundian authorities have regularly attacked journalists since the beginning of the crisis in 2015, pushing around 100 of them into exile. Four journalists from the Iwacu press group have been detained in the Western Province of Bubanza since 22 October 2019 while on their way to the country to cover the attack by an armed group on Burundian soldiers. They appeared before the tribunal on 30 December 2019 and are still awaiting the judges' decision.



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 December 11 and that of December 12, 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 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