



# SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

## **REPORT N ° 219 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 22 FEBRUARY 2020**

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 15 to 22 February 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) persons were murdered during the period in different localities. Another victim narrowly escaped a grenade attack, while a young man has been a victim of enforced disappearance since his abduction by men in Burundian police uniforms.

The report also refers to the violent attacks by members of the imbonerakure militia on opponents.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was discovered floating in the waters of Lake Tanganyika at the fishing port of Rumonge, Commune and province Rumonge (southwest of the country) on 17 February 2020. Witnesses report that the victim, who had traces of a violent blow to the head, was not identified.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police had not identified the perpetrators of the murder or the circumstances of the murder. Local administrative officials ordered the burial of the victim, without allowing his possible identification.

- Unidentified individuals attempted to assassinate Anésie Nibizi at her home on the Mugina Hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on February 18, 2020 in the evening. Relatives report that the perpetrators of the attack threw a grenade.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Ms. Nibizi was injured and taken to a health centre. Mugina police have not identified any suspects to date.

- On 19 February 2020, Jules Negamiye was abducted in the Rohero area, Mukaza commune (centre of the town of Bujumbura), by individuals dressed in Burundian police uniforms. Relatives report that the victim was a young man who worked in a Chinese restaurant in the former capital.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes abduction and a risk of execution of the victim following this enforced disappearance.



**Jules Negamiye, abducted by men in police uniform**

- On the evening of 20 February 2020, armed gunmen shot Consolate Havyarimana in front of his home in kizingwe district, Kanyosha area, Muha commune (southern Bujumbura). Relatives report that the victim was the leader of the ruling CNDD-FDD women's league in the neighborhood.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not apprehended any suspects to date. There is a fear that this assassination may be linked to political motives.



Ms. Consolate Havyarimana, local leader of the ruling party shot in front of her home.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was discovered on Mparambo II Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on February 21, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim, unidentified, was decapitated by his executioners.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date. Police officers rushed the body to an unknown destination.

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

- Members of the imbonerakure militia attacked Thaddée Nahimana's home on Rwerambere Hill, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province (east of the country) on 16 February 2020. Relatives report that they then severely beat him up.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the attack and the injuries sustained by the victim that led to his hospitalization. Relatives also report that Mr. Nahimana is a member of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party. None of the

alleged perpetrators were arrested, although the victim was able to identify one of the perpetrators: a member of the imbonerakure militia named Evariste Manirakiza.

- A member of the imbonerakure militia named Niyonzima attacked and wounded Eric Sabumuremyi (42) on kigina Hill, Murungurira zone, ntega commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on 20 February 2020. Witnesses report that the victim received a violent machete blow to his foot while standing in front of a shop.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the attack that caused Mr. Sabumuremyi's hospitalization. Witnesses also report that the victim is a member of the opposition CNL party and were threatened by the militiaman before being wounded with a machete.

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.

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.