



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT NO 220 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 29 FEBRUARY 2020

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 22 to 29 February 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least twenty-five (25) people were murdered during the period. The victims are persons accused of being criminals and members of an armed group that allegedly attacked communes in Bujumbura province. However, images show that some of the victims were reportedly executed after being tied up and tortured by members of the ruling party.

The report also mentions the arrest of two other people in Kirundo, accused of possessing weapons despite police searches that did not yield anything.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Armed individuals attacked Hills in Isale and Nyabiraba communes, Bujumbura province between 19 and 20 February 2020. The police said that it was an armed group whose members were shot and others arrested. Witnesses report that some of the people announced by the police to be shot had been arrested and exhibited as the perpetrators of the attack. The police officially declared that they shot and killed twenty-two (22) people believed to be among the perpetrators of the attack. In addition to these "criminals", two police officers reportedly died in the same attack.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes executions by the persons identified as members of the imbonerakure militia. The victims, who were photographed by witnesses while they were still alive, are mostly members of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).



"arrested" individuals are trampled being tied up by plainclothes men armed with sticks (images of witnesses in Isale)



Among the torturers are individuals wearing the T-shirts of the ruling party CNDD-FDD.

- Individuals violently beat Felix Ndikuriyo in mubimbi commune, Bujumbura province on 20 February 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was beaten to death after his arrest.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the aggression that led to the death of the victim. Mr. Ndikuriyo was known as a member of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police officers arrested Gerard Rwsa and one of his guests at his home in kavogero district, Kirundo commune and province (north of the country) on 21 February 2020. Relatives report that these policemen searched the house in the search of weapons but did not find anything.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police accused Mr. Rwsa of harbouring rebels and his guest was accused of having come to recruit rebels. Sos-Torture/Burundi has also learned from relatives that the two men arrested are members of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom). These are arbitrary arrests and detentions. On 22 February 2020, the two men were transferred to the Kirundo prosecution cell, still without evidence of the charges.



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SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on serious human rights violations taking place in Burundi through monitoring reports on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform about the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of 11 and 12 December 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 Bujumbura.

The affected zones are said to be protesters of the third term of President Nkurunziza namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the Center the Town Hall of Bujumbura.

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