

REPORT NO. 221 SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 7 MARCH 2020

This report SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 29 February to 7 March 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during the period in different localities. The victims were all identified, including a woman who succumbed to beatings by members of the imbonerakure militias. Another woman, local leader of the opposition CNL party, went missing after her abduction by imbonerakure militiamen in Mutimbuzi.

The report also refers to the enforced disappearance of another CNL activist whose perpetrators are agents of the National Intelligence service.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered Abel Ndayisaba whose body was discovered on Rongerero Hill, Bukemba commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on 3 March 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was beaten with machetes on the head, and the tongue was cut off by his executioners.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that three members of the imbonerakure militia were arrested as suspects; one of them was still wearing the victim's shoes. Mr. Ndayisaba was a teacher at the Ndoba Basic School in Bukemba.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia attacked Asmani Rwasa's household on Jani Hill, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province (north-east of the country) on the evening of 26 February 2020. Witnesses from the neighbourhood reported that the militiamen beat the head of the household and his wife Faussie Basesuwabo violently. Ms. Basesuwabo finally died of her injuries on March 5, 2020 and her husband is still hospitalized.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the attack that caused the death of a person. None of the members of the imbonerakure militia who participated in the attack were arrested by the police.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia abducted Gloriose Bazikwankana from her home on Muyange Hill, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province (west of Bujumbura City) on 26 February 2020. Relatives report that the victim is the representative of the opposition CNL party of Muyange Hill. She was arrested along with her son and one of her neighbours.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Ms. Bazikwankana's son and their neighbour are being held in the Rubirizi police cell. The representative of the CNL party could not be found, which raises fears for her safety.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Victor Bandandanze whose body was discovered near the offices of the Musaga zone, Muha commune (south of the city of Bujumbura) on March 1, 2020. Relatives report that the victim is a retired police officer who had been missing since the day before.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not identify any suspects or determine the circumstances of Mr. Bazikwankana's murder.



Victor Bandandanze, found murdered in Musaga in the city of Bujumbura



The body of Mr. Bandandanze at the time of his discovery by witnesses

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police officers arrested Claver Baranyikwa on Murama Hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province (centre of the country) on 28 February 2020. Relatives report that he is an active activist of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom). He was in a local bar when members of the imbonerakure militia called police officers to arrest him, accusing him of collaborating with armed groups based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest aimed at intimidating members of the opposition, particularly the CNL party. Following his arrest in Nyabiraba, Mr. Baranyikwa was removed from his cell and taken into a national intelligence service vehicle for an unknown destination.



Claver Baranyikwa, CNL party member abducted in Nyabihanga, Mwaro province

- Members of the imbonerakure militia attacked and beat Elvis Nizigiyimana, Audace Nsabimana and several others on the itahe and Gacokwe Hills, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province (east of the country) on 1 March 2020. Witnesses report that the targeted persons are activists of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for Freedom) who had gathered for the inauguration of two local permanences of this party. Among those targeted during the caning is CNL deputy Pascal Bizumuremyi.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the attack that led to the hospitalization of Messrs. Nizigiyimana and Nsabimana as well as the incessant attacks on the opposition by members of the ruling party. None of the perpetrators of the beatings were apprehended by the police, which proves the complicity of the police.



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 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.

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 of the Town Hall of Bujumbura.

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