

## **REPORT NO 222 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 14 MARCH 2020**

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 7 to 14 March 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least five (5) people were murdered during the period in different localities. The victims are all identified, including three women and two men. Another victim succumbed to an assassination attempt.

The report also mentions thirteen (13) cases of arbitrary arrests and two (2) cases of violence committed by members of the imbonerakure militia under the complicity of the police.

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

- During the night of 8-9 March 2020, Police officers shot and killed Mr. Niyondiko on gakaranka Hill, Kivumu zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province (south of the country). Relatives report that police officers had surrounded his home since the day before, accusing him of belonging to armed groups.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violent reaction of the police who eliminated Mr. Niyondiko. Witnesses also report that three other people were arrested after the incident: a certain Niyongabo and the couple who were serving as domestic servants.

- On the evening of March 5, 2020, unidentified individuals murdered Adrien Nzeyimana (65) at his home on gihosha Hill, Kirundo commune and province (north of the country). Relatives report that the victim died instantly as a result of a grenade attack.

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

- Unidentified individuals also attempted to assassinate Jean Claude Nduwayezu (48 years old) on bugeza Hill, commune and Kirundo province on the night of 5 March 2020. The victim was beaten several times with machetes.

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

- An individual murdered Germaine Barazingiza (72 years old) with machetes at her home on Burazi Hill, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) on 10 March 2020.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Rumonge police announced the arrest of her husband, Hilaire Ntamavukiro (73) as the main suspect.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Ms. Jacqueline Nteturuye, whose body was discovered at her home on Kivogo Hill, Bubanza commune and province (west of the country) on 11 March 2020. Witnesses report that the body of the victim showed several traces of violent blows to the body.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered Ms. Pascasie Ntiruyorwa at her home in the Nyamugari area, cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province (north-east of the country) on the night of 12 March 2020. The victim is the wife of Barbatus Busengo who appeared to be the target of the attack by men armed with machetes and clubs.

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

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

- On 9 March 2020 Police officers arrested Vital Ntabirabiraho, Jean Nahayo and Amonse Nikobareze on bugongo Hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province (east of the country). Relatives report that these three men are activists of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes increasing arbitrary arrests of opposition members.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia beat up Jean Paul Butoyi on Kaburantwa Hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on the evening of 10 March 2020. Relatives report that the victim is a member of the opposition party

CNL (National Congress for Freedom) who was trying to intervene to prevent the militiamen from destroying one of the CNL's local hotlines.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the beatings inflicted on the victim as well as on two other of his comrades who accompanied him. It is also worth noting the complicity of the police, who did not arrest any of the suspects despite having been identified: these are the militiamen named Niyongabo and Gaddafi.

- Police officers arrested Arnaud Gahizi, his wife named esteemed Bukuru, Alain Robert Gikera and Eric at Mr. Gahizi's home in the Rango district, commune and Gitega province (center of the country) on 10 March 2020. Relatives report that the same agents tried to place weapons in his house in order to accuse them.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests that are not based on any charges since the search conducted on the same day did not allow any seizure.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia beat Gerard Manirakiza (24) in the Cumva area, Kirundo commune and province (north of the country) on 10 March 2020. Relatives report that the victim is a member of the opposition CNL party. He was accused by the militia of the ruling party of opposing the system in place.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the attack on an opposition member as well as the complicity of the local police who did not arrest any of the suspects despite being identified by the victim. His executioners are Kabiriti, Ngagije (nicknamed Mwarabu) and Mandela.

- On 11 March 2020, members of the imbonerakure militia arrested Alexandre Kabura, Georges Sabushimike, Ernest Niyonkuru, Nanson Irankunda, Neuphtalie Shakuru and Padon on bukeye Hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province (south of the country). Relatives report that the victims are members of the CNL party who came to take the accreditations of their party to be able to be mandated to monitor the voting during the May 2020 elections.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes illegal arrests as well as the complicity of the police who put these six people under lock and key.



## 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 December and that of 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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