



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

### **REPORT NO 223 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 21 MARCH 2020**

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 14 to 21 March 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least two (2) persons were murdered during the period and one other person is a victim of enforced disappearance. The murdered persons are a woman and an activist of the opposition party CNL of Kabezi commune.

The report also refers to eleven (11) cases of arbitrary arrest and detention.

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

- An individual(s) murdered Jocelyne Mbonimpa whose body was found hanging on a tree in Buhinga Hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on March 14, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim had traces of strangulation.

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

- Unidentified individuals shot dead Methuselah Nahishakiye on Migera Hill, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province on the evening of 16 March 2020. Relatives report that the victim is a young man who is a member of the opposition CNL party.

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



**Methuselah Nahishakiye, local leader of the CNL shot dead**

- Agents of the National Intelligence Service kidnapped Jean Claude Nimubona (nicknamed Mangema) in Gasenyi zone, ntahangwa commune (north of the city of Bujumbura) in the evening of 17 March 2020. Relatives report that he was in Bujumbura to visit them.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the risk of Mr. Nimubona's enforced disappearance since his state of Health is not known to his relatives. He works as a transport bus driver of Yahoo Company.



Jean Claude Nimubona, abducted by SNR agents

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

- Police officers arrested Pacifique Nduwimana and her little brother on Nyagwaga Hill, Bururi commune and province (south of the country) on 13 March 2020. Relatives report that Mr. Nduwimana is the representative of the opposition CNL party on Nyagwaga Hill. The two men are accused of wounding a member of the ruling party during a brawl.

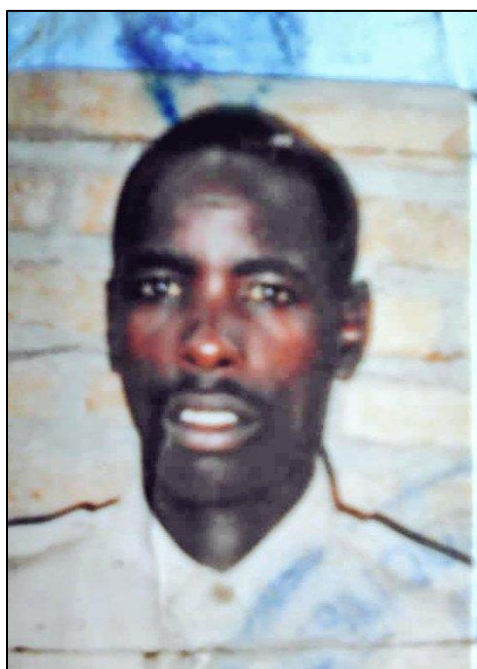
Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests targeting only some of the people who allegedly participated in a brawl. No member of the ruling party was arrested.

- Members of the imbonerakure militias beat up Jean Marie Nsabimana, Simon Nyingisha and Désiré on mugerama Hill, Nyanza lac commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on 15 March 2020. Witnesses report that the militiamen entered Mr. Nsabimana's shop and beat him and the customers who were having a drink.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the beatings and the complicity of the police. The victims lodged a reported the case to the police officer the day after the attack, but the officer did not follow up the complaint, reinforcing the climate of impunity enjoyed by the militiamen of the ruling party.

- Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned of the prolonged detention of nine people in Mugamba commune, Bururi province. Claver Niyongabo and his servant, Claver Kantore, François Ninganza, Olivier, Félicité, Adrien Nzosaba, Gaudence and Toto were transferred to the Bururi police bump on March 19, 2020 after about ten days in the Mugamba commune cells. These people were arrested on 9 March 2020 after police shot and killed Albert Niyondiko on suspicion of possessing weapons.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have shown no link between these arrests and the assassination of Mr. Niyondiko. Witnesses report that his body was also mutilated by police officers after they shot him.



Mr. Albert Niyondiko was shot dead by police officers on the night of 8-9 March 2020



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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.

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.

SOS-TORTURE