

## **REPORT NO. 225 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 4 APRIL 2020**

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 28 March to 4 April 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least five (5) people were murdered during the period in different localities. Among the victims were an unidentified person, an opposition member, and a father and son shot dead by imbonerakure militiamen.

The report also mentions other serious abuses attributed to members of the ruling party, including the violent attack on a family in Butaganzwa commune and the illegal arrest of an opposition member.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was discovered on Bugongo Hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province (east of the country) on 26 March 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was wearing a rope around his neck and that his chest was pierced with three stab wounds.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the local administration ordered the burial of the victim, without the latter being identified. There is a fear that this will be a summary execution with an attempt to conceal the identity of the victim and his executioners.

- Deo Bukuru murdered Generose Kubwimana by beating him in the stomach at their home on Muyange Hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on the evening of March 27, 2020. Witnesses from the neighborhood report that the perpetrator of the crime is the husband of the victim, who was 8 months pregnant.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police apprehended the alleged perpetrator of the crime while attempting to flee.

- Unidentified individuals killed with machetes Bosco Ngabirano (40 years old) whose body was discovered on Kampezi Hill, Ryansoro commune, Gitega province (center of

the country) on March 30, 2020. Relatives report that the victim, a member of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for liberation), was attacked on the way to his home. He had just verbally confronted members of the imbonerakure militia before his attack.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date, although witnesses have seen members of the imbonerakure militia who chased him after their altercation.



**Bosco Ngabirano, CNL party member killed with machetes**

- Individuals suspected of being members of the imbonerakure militia murdered Damien Kazungu (nicknamed Bonane and aged 49) and his Son Ezekiel Dusabe on minyago Hill, bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on the evening of 31 March 2020. Relatives report that Mr. Kazungu had just returned from Tanzania after spending a year there. The imbonerakure militiamen arrived at his home and allegedly took him to escort him to the quarantine center in Mukenke, which welcomes people from abroad at this time of coronavirus. Along the way, the father and son were mortally beaten with machetes.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the summary executions carried out by the imbonerakure militia. Relatives also report that the victim's son, Ezekiel Dusabe, had not stayed in Tanzania although imbonerakure militiamen forced him to go with his father to a

quarantine center. Police have not arrested any suspects to date, although the people who "escorted" the two victims are known.

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

- Members of the imbonerakure militia attacked and seriously wounded Patrice Masabarakiza, his wife Elvanie Sindoraniwe and their son Methode Ntirampeba at their home on Nyaburondwe Hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country) on the evening of 29 March 2020. The victims report that the militiamen used machetes to injure Mr. Masabarakiza and raped his wife in addition to beating his son.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the prosecutor's Office of Ruyigi and the police did not apprehend any suspects, although Mr. Masabarakiza filed a complaint and identified their torturers. He is said to be a victim of his political affiliation, in this case the opposition party CNL for which he is responsible at the level of the commune Butaganzwa. Mr. Masabarakiza has consistently declined requests from members of the imbonerakure militia to join the ruling CNDD-FDD party.



**Mr. Masabarakiza was seriously injured in the head during an attack on his home**

- Members of the imbonerakure militia arrested Oscar Ndayitwayeko (nicknamed Gasongo) on Rubimba Hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on 29 March 2020. Relatives report that his arrest follows that of his domestic



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

worker, who was tortured to accuse his boss of wanting to eliminate members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes illegal arrest by militiamen of the ruling party and complicity of Kibago police officers.

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 city.

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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