

## **SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI REPORT NO. 76 PUBLISHED ON 27 MAY 2017**

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period ranging from 20 to 27 May 2017 concerning human rights violations which continue to be committed in Burundi with impunity.

The report mentions cases of assassinations and armed attacks. At least three (3) persons were killed during the period in different localities. With these armed attacks which are increasing in recent days, ten (10) other persons were wounded, including eight (8) in only one locality of Kamenge in Bujumbura during a grenade attack.

At least twelve (12) persons were arrested in different localities in the same period. Among those arrests that SOS Torture considers arbitrary, five (5) were conducted by members of the Imbonerakure militiamen of the ruling party CNDD FDD in complicity with local police authorities at the places of abuses.

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

- An armed group attacked the locality of Kigaramango on the road Bujumbura-Gatumba, commune Mutimbuzi, Bujumbura province (a few kilometers in the west of the city of Bujumbura) close to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo on 20 May 2017. The attackers defeated a certain Hilaire Muhamed before escaping, without being identified. The police announced the arrest of two suspects two days after the attack but without giving their identities.



**Mr. Muhamed shot dead near the Burundi-Congolese border**

- Unidentified individuals carried out a grenade attack in Gikizi quarter Kamenge zone, Ntahangwa commune (north of Bujumbura city) on 21 May 2017 evening. Eight (8) persons were injured: three children, one woman and four men, all of whom were passing in the vicinity of the attack site. Witnesses report that the domicile of the Kamenge zone chief was the target of the attack. The Police have not yet identified the perpetrators of the killings. Some armed individuals shot down a certain Kagemeri on Mwurire Hill, Rugari zone, Muyinga province (north of the country) on 21 May 2017 in the evening. The perpetrators of the attack have not been identified by the police to date.

- A police agent attempted to kill his colleague by shooting him at Gihehe police station, Giheta commune, Gitega province (center of the country) on 23 May 2017. The perpetrator of the assassination attempt was arrested but the motives behind this act are not yet elucidated.

- Individuals attacked Lazare Baranzira's home on the Nzozi hill, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on 21 May 2017 in the evening. Mr. Baranzira (69 years) was seriously injured after the attack. The perpetrators of this assassination attempt have not been identified by the police to date.

- Armed men killed a man on the road separating Quarter 6 of the Ngagara zone and Kigobe quarter, Ntahangwa zone (north of Bujumbura city) on 24 May 2017 very early in the morning. Neither the perpetrator nor the victim was identified.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that another assassination took place in the same zone a week before, perpetrators was not identified and apprehended (see SOS-Torture Burundi Report No. 75: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nums%20CC-75%20ro-En.pdf>)

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

- Congolese police agents arrested a Burundian journalist Antéditeste Niragira, a reporter for the German "Deutsche Welle" radio in Burundi, on the Burundi-Congolese border, Uvira side (DRC) on 17 May 2017. The journalist was incarcerated for 48 hours and Congolese authorities didn't inform his relatives or his employers before confirming his detention for espionage.

SOS-Torture Burundi learned of the release of the Burundian journalist, handed over to the Burundian police on 22 May 2017; which released him on May 23, 2017 after a night in the custody. Mr. Niragira was only accused of forgetting his accreditation before entering the DRC. SOS-Torture Burundi, however, deplores the silence of the Congolese authorities on the fate of the journalist during two days, which was broken following the multiple alerts of the employer of Mr. Niragira and many other associations for the defense of journalists and the freedom of the press.



The journalist Antéditeste Niragira on his release by the Burundian police after 4 days of detention in the DRC

- Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen illegally arrested four (4) men in Cibitoke central province (north-western) on 20 May 2017 in the evening. Witnesses reported that the four (4) individuals were subsequently taken to Cibitoke National Intelligence Unit.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned from relatives that they are accused of attempting to organize an armed attack against pro-government demonstrators who had gathered during the day to support the government. The National Intelligence Service did not communicate the reasons for these detentions. These are illegal arrests carried out by militiamen who are not authorized to carry out such operations but who continue to violate the law with impunity.

- Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen of the ruling party CNDD FDD arrested Pierre Ntirwinyegeza on the Rukaragata hill, Ruyigi commune and province (East of the country) on 22 May 2017 in the evening at his home. Mr. Ntirwinyegeza was illegally arrested.

SOS-Torture Burundi learned that Mr. Ntirwinyegeza responded with good faith to a summon issued by the public prosecutor's office about an ongoing dispute over a land dispute between him and his neighbor. Pierre Ntirwinyegeza returned after being interrogated but was arrested that same evening by Imbonerakure militiamen who wanted to interfere in this case, accompanied by police agents who had no warrant.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the public prosecutor ordered the release of Mr. Ntirwinyegeza on 24 May 2017 after two days of unlawful detention.

- National intelligence agents arrested Eric Ntirandekura and another man who was with him on the Nyamabere hill in the 12th crossroads, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province (western part of the country) on 23 May 2017. Witnesses reported that the Agents of the presidential police embarked them without warrants and without communicating to their relatives their destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned from relatives that the two men are activists of the FNL (National Front for the Liberation) opposition party faithful to Agathon Rwasa (vice-president of the National Assembly). Prior to their arrest by the SNR, the two men had been threatened by young members of the Imbonerakure militia of the ruling party CNDD FDD.

- Police agents arrested four (4) persons in quarter 6, Ngagara zone (north of Bujumbura) on 24 May 2017. No one was allowed to quit or enter the quarter during the entire search. Witnesses reported that police agents were accompanied by soldiers, and said they were looking for weapons.

Those arrested did not have housekeeping records, a document required since the beginning of the crisis, particularly in so-called protest quarter and used to



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

control the movements of people. SOS-Torture Burundi notes again that it is a restriction of the freedoms of movement by the imposition of a document not governed by the law.

*The SOS-Torture / Burundi campaign was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on serious human rights violations under way in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly on torture, Arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions. This initiative to inform about the realities of the country followed the slaughter of a hundred persons killed during the day of 11 and 12 December 2015 by the police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebel groups which came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital city. The affected quarters are said to be challenging the third term of President Nkurunziza which are Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura.*

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