

REPORT NO. 91 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED 9 SEPTEMBER 2017

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period from 2 to 9 September 2017 concerning human rights violations in Burundi.

At least four (4) persons were assassinated during the period. Among the victims was an unidentified man whose body was recovered from a river in Kayanza province. The victim had arms and hands tied behind his back. During the period, eleven (11) other persons were injured in attacks and clashes.

The same report refers to the attempted assassination of the Public Prosecutor in Rumonge by a police agent. The man was arrested, but the police announced his suicide the following day in unspecified circumstances.

The report also mentions cases of arbitrary arrests and torture. At least three (3) persons were tortured by imbonerakure militiamen in Ruyigi. Another detainee was taken out of his cell to be tortured by a police agent in Makamba province.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- The body of a newborn child was found on Musongati Hill, Rutovu commune, Bururi province (southern part of the country) on 1 September 2017. Witnesses report that the newborn was killed and thrown in the bush after birth.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police arrested a young girl Marlène Kandava as the alleged perpetrator of the homicide on 3 September 2017.

- Unidentified individuals attacked Hassan Nduwimana's home on Kigoma hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on 3 September 2017 in the evening. The grenade injured two occupants of the house.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police announced the arrest of a suspect.

- Exchanges of gunfire and shootings took place on Murambi hill, Muramvya commune and province (central of the country) on September 3, 2017. Witnesses report that imbonerakure militants of the ruling party CNDD FDD physically attacked a man. Police agents of the Unit "Support for the Protection of Institutions (API)" intervened, and faced the imbonerakure militiamen who started beating the police

agents. The police, among whom three had just been wounded, opened fire on the group and wounded five of the ruling party league.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes an increase in the violence of the imbonerakure militia, which no longer respects those responsible for law and order and those responsible for enforcing the law. This is a consequence of the impunity enjoyed by the youth of the ruling party. The current two-pronged treatment has been confirmed by the sanctions imposed on the three policemen who participated in the clashes by the hierarchical police authorities, but no member of the imbonerakure militiamen active in these incidents, detained for today.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Elisabeth Nyandwi whose body was discovered floating in the Nyagonga River, Nyamiyogoro Hill, Muruta commune, Kayanza province (northwestern part of the country) on 3 September 2017. The police did not determine the circumstances of his assassination or the alleged perpetrators.- A man's body was discovered floating on the Ruvubu River, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province (north-western part of the country) on 6 September 2017. The victim had his arms violently tied to his back by a rope, but the victim was not identified.SOS-Torture Burundi regrets the attitude of the local administration, which ordered its burial before investigations can identify it and the circumstances surrounding its execution.



The victim whose body was floating on the river was not identified

- A police agent Domitien Nyabenda attempted to assassinate the Rumonge prosecutor Donathe Niyonsaba on 7 September 2017. The agent, who had a knife as a weapon, was arrested in time by others in the Office of the Prosecutor. SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the public prosecutor's office immediately opened a case and filed a complaint with the Rumonge .

SOS-Torture Burundi also learned that the offending officer was found dead in his cell on 8 September 2017, the day after his arrest and the day scheduled for his trial of flagrante. The police said it was a suicide, without further details. Investigations must be carried out by the Intermediate Court to determine the exact circumstances of the death, as well as the motives that had prompted this police agent to attempt to attack the life of Rumonge Prosecutor.



The police agent who tried to stab the Rumonge Prosecutor, and who committed suicide (according to the police)

- Unidentified individuals assassinated Claudette Irankunda on Muyange hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province, on 8 September 2017. The same murderers seriously wounded Samuel Ntirambepa, the father-in-law of the first victim. Relatives reported that the two victims, as well as the son of Mr. Ntirambepa Célestin Itangakubuntu, were on a motorcycle at the time of the attack.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the three victims, of the same family, had just been successful in a lawsuit of land dispute between 800 families. The court has since ordered their eviction of the land in dispute. SOS-Torture Burundi has also learned of the arrest of three suspects by the police.



One of the victims of the attack, Claudette Irankunda, did not survive

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

- The chief of police in Kibago commune, Makamba province (south of the country) Jean Bosco Hatungimana tortured Ildephonse Ndayitwayeko after taking him out of his cell on 3 September 2017 in the evening. Witnesses report that the police officer regularly acts in this way on other detainees of this Prison under his responsibility.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the victim of torture was released from prison the following day after intervention by the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (CNIDH). The chief of Kibago police station is not, however, prosecuted and remains in office despite the victims of his torture.

- Police agents arrested Frédéric Ngenzebuhoro on the Mubira hill, Nyagasasa zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province (south of the country) on 5 September 2017 in the evening. This is an agricultural instructor. Relatives report that Mr. Ngenzebuhoro is accused of illegal possession of a weapon.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes, however, that no military effect was seized by the police during the arrest.

- Imbonerakure militiamen arrested two (2) men on Gasasa Hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on September 6, 2017 and began to beat them. Witnesses of the scene report that the militiamen had previously tied up the two victims and that the chief of the Gasasa hill was there. Simeon Ndarukanywe tried to help the victims of torture, and was in turn beaten by the same militiamen.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that Mr. Ndarukanywe has managed to escape torture, but his relatives report that he is still being chased by these imbonerakure militiamen and has had to flee. The police have not conducted any investigations to arrest the perpetrators of the torturers who impose their will on the hills by force.

- On 6 September 2017 Rugombo Police chief, Cibitoke Province (the northwestern of the country), has ordered the arrest of Jean Félix Nganyirimana and Jean-Pierre Ngoga on Mparambo I Hill . They are two men of Rwandan nationality (border country to Burundi and notably with the province of Cibitoke). Witnesses report that the chief Principal Police officer «OPP2" Jean Baptiste Habumuremyi accuses them of espionage.

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- SOS-Torture Burundi notes, however, that the chief of police in Rugombo handed the two men over to the national intelligence service in Cibitoke where they were tortured by SNR agents. The police have not communicated to date on the situation of the two men as well as any charges against them.

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- Two (2) persons known as miners were arrested on Gusaba Hill, Murwi Commune, Cibitoke Province (North-West of the country) on September 8, 2017 and taken in a car plate number I3446A of the imbonerakure representative Deo Nsabimana. These people from the province and Kayanza commune are accused of collaborating with armed groups in Rwanda according to police sources. Their destination is still unknown.

3. An imbonerakure militiaman detained after an attempt assassination escaped

SOS-Torture Burundi learned that Reverien Manirakiza nicknamed Kamoteri, one of the leaders of the imbonerakure militiamen of Ruyigi commune, escaped from the police cell on 7 September 2017. This militiaman had been arrested after injuring by machete eight persons including three policemen (see **Sos-Torture Burundi Report N ° 90**: [http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-
nume%CC%81ro-90-en-EN\). pdf](http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-
nume%CC%81ro-90-en-EN). pdf)). Witnesses report that he would have had complicity in getting out of the cell and escaped justice.

4. The lawyer's collective of civil party for Burundi "Justice for Burundi" welcomes the report of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry

The lawyer's collective of civil party for Burundi "Justice for Burundi" welcomes the report of the United Nations inquiry commission urging the International Criminal Court in The Hague to conduct investigations on criminal acts committed in Burundi. The collective of lawyers first thanks women and men of Burundi who lwho want justice and who have agreed to testify on precise and overwhelming facts. It is not unusual for nearly 500 people to testify on specific facts and the collective specifies in a statement that the witnesses waiting to collaborate are even more numerous. The United Nations report is a demonstration that torturers are paper tigers when faced with determined, organized and structured victims.

The Collective of Lawyers announces that the 800 mandates are added on more than 600 new mandates handed over to the Collective. These mandates will also be transmitted to the judicial authorities concerned, subject to the confidentiality of the sources that will be maintained.

The Collective hopes to open the investigations of the International Criminal Court.

SOS-Torture Burundi joins the Lawyers Collective of Civil Party for Burundi to ask the ICC to respond to the request of the UN investigators; and encourages the Collective to continue its efforts to ensure that victims of crimes against humanity committed by the authorities are heard and given justice.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

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 people killed during the day of December 11 and 12, 2015 by the police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who 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, Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the latter two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Hall

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