

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT No. 139 PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 11, 2018

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 4 to 11 August 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least five (5) persons were murdered in different locations during that period. Among the victims were three (3) military victims of an armed group the attack in Gihanga. Another victim was shot dead by a soldier following an argument.

The report also notes a case of rape of a woman (40 years), slaughtered by her attacker in a field.

Arbitrary and illegal arrests noted at least twenty-six (26) cases of which seventeen (17) involve construction workers. Imbonerakure militiamen also beat up three (3) opposition activists in Karusi, accusing them of "no" campaign carried out by their party during the referendum campaign.

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

- A soldier shot and killed Dieudonné Nduwimana on Mudubugu Hill, Gihanga Commune, Bubanza Province (West of the Country) on August 5, 2018. Witnesses reported that the victim and two (2) others were arguing with the soldier. The latter used his service weapon, which he went to recover at his barracks, to kill Mr. Nduwimana and seriously wound the two (2) other companions.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arrest of the alleged perpetrator, as well as his judgment and life sentence decided by the judges.

- Unidentified armed individuals shot dead three (3) soldiers in Gihanga Commune, Bubanza Province (western part of the country), on the RN5 road linking Bujumbura town to Cibitoke province via Bubanza on August 5, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the victims were in a military pickup and fell into an armed ambush. The perpetrators of the attack seriously injured five (5) other soldiers.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a resurgence of armed attacks in the western and northwestern region of the country. This armed attack has not been claimed, and the police or army have not identified any suspects to date.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes the arrest of four (4) persons in Gihanga on August 7, 2018, after a raid search of police agents in households near the ambush site. The police did not communicate any link with the armed group that made the attack.

- On August 6, 2018 one (or more) individual (s) has murdered Janvière Ntakarutimana (40 years) whose body was discovered in a banana plantation on Camumandu Hill, Rutegama Commune, Muramvya Province (Center-West of the Country) Witnesses report that the victim was raped and then murdered by her attacker (s).

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that police have not yet identified any suspects.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Chrisante Haramizigiro, Henri Haragakiza and Innocent Niyongabire in Mudende zone, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) on 2 August 2018. Witnesses report that the three (3) men are teachers, accused of receiving bribes to grant undeserved grades to some students during the year.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the existence of a warrant issued by the public prosecutor in Rumonge. Relatives report that the police and the prosecution have not yet proven the charges against the three (3) teachers, and fear arbitrary arrests. Teachers were all transferred to Murembwe Central Prison (Rumonge).

- On 3 August 2018 in the evening Members of imbonerakure militiamen violently beat up Frédéric Bujana, Denis Ncurebugufi and Désiré Singirankabo on Bibara hill, Mutambu commune, Karusi province . Relatives report that the three victims were intercepted by militiamen when they returned home, and were beaten by their attackers.



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

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes violence of aggression, which seems to be politically motivated. The victims are members of FNL opposition party faithful to Agathon Rwasa. They were accused by imbonerakure militiamen of having campaigned for "no" during the referendum of May 17, 2018.

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

- Police agents arrested seventeen (17) persons in Makamba II quarter, Makamba commune and province (south of the country) on August 6, 2018. Witnesses report that all those arrested are construction workers, arrested at their peak location where they expect to be hired on a daily basis by site owners. The police announced that the operation was aimed at "no employed".

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary and unjustified arrests of workers waiting for work. There is no law in Burundi that provides for arrest on the grounds of idleness. Relatives report that the workers are victims of having refused to continue working on the construction site of the governor's office in Makamba, for not having been paid for several months. The police have not reported any charges against these 17 people to date.

- Sos-Torture/ Burundi learned about enforced eviction of nine (9) persons by the Tanzanian Government including four (4) citizens from Kayanza province, three (3) from Gitega province, one (1) from Karusi and another from Ngozi province on August 10, 2018 after more than a month of detention in the United Republic of Tanzania. These people say that several Burundians are languishing in different jails and prisons in Tanzania accused of illegal migrants.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that several Burundians seeking for work in Tanzania are being abused more and more by the Tanzanian police. Law enforcement should refrain from any unjustified interference with freedom of movement and freedom of movement.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia arrested two (2) men on Ruhororo hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, north-west of the country, on August 8, 2018. Witnesses report that the militiamen are accusing the two (2) men of want to cross the border into Rwanda to enlist armed groups.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes an illegal arrest by members of the ruling party CNDD-FDD. Witnesses also report that the two men were subsequently embarked by Cibitoke Provincial Police Commissioner OPC1 De Luck Harerimana. Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes that this officer did not provide the names of the arrested persons or their place of detention. There is a risk to the safety of these two men.

- On August 9, 2018 Police agents arrested four (4) persons from the same family in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province (west of the country). They are Mr. Mbazumutima, his wife Odile, their daughter Leila and their son Bertrand. Witnesses report that these persons were arrested after a search at their home, which resulted in no seizure.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests of an entire family. Mr. Mbazumutima and his son Bertrand were transferred to the national intelligence service in Bujumbura; Mrs. Odile and her daughter Leila are kept in Gihanga police. Mr. Mbazumutima is also a retired soldier from the former Burundian Armed Forces, several active and retired members of which have been victims of summary executions, enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrests since the beginning of the war. crisis in 2015.

3. Conflicts between residents and new returnees create tensions

SOS-Torture/Burundi learned about the release of three (3) men on August 9, 2018, accused of preparing an attack on residents of Jimbi Hill, Kibago Commune, Makamba Province (south of the country). Witnesses report that these persons were arrested on 6 August 2018 in the middle of a preparation meeting for this attack. Those released are Édouard Bayubahe, André Bizimana and Zabulon Kabura. They are all returnees, former refugees who have returned home; and are in conflict with families in Burundi whom they accuse of taking control of their land in their absence.

This problem of land dispute dates back several years, and pits returnees against so-called resident people; each party claiming legal possession of these lands.



SOS-Torture/Burundi, however, notes a risk of tension following the release of people suspected of wanting to attack others in order to grab land in conflict.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about serious human rights violations under way in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced 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 soldiers on the pretext of pursuing rebels who came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital City. The affected zones are said to be contesting President Nkurunziza's third term namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Bujumbura City Council.