

REPORT N ° 207 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 30 NOVEMBER 2019

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 23 to 30 November 2019 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least one person was murdered during the period: a man who received several strokes of machetes. Another girl was raped, the alleged perpetrator is a member of imbonerakure militiamen.

The report also refers to cases of arbitrary arrests and attacks by members of the imbonerakure militiamen. Among the victims of these attacks are three judges in Bururi. Members of the opposition are also victims of prolonged detention in police custody.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered Jean Misambi (68) at his home on the hill Mbizi, Kibago commune, provine Makamba (south of the country) on the evening of November 22, 2019. Witnesses report that the victim was struck several times with machetes.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the Kibago police had announced the arrest of eight (8) people, all of them neighbours of Mr. Misambi.

- A 15-year-old D.N girl was raped in the capital of Mutaho commune, Gitega province (central part of the country) on 27 November 2019. Relatives and witnesses report that the perpetrator is Anatole Mbazumutima, deputy representative of the imbonerakure militia in Mutaho commune, who used the victim as a domestic servant. Medical analysis confirmed the rape.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the alleged perpetrator of the rape had been arrested and detained in Mutaho police cells.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also learned of the arrest of Prosper Manirakiza, a representative of the civil society organization Parcem in Mutaho. This activist is accused of reporting the rape of the young girl.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police officers arrested Ferdinand Nsengiyumva on The Hill Sigu, Busoni commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on 21 November 2019. Relatives report that he is an active member of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party. He was arrested at the instigation of two members of the imbonerakure militia of the ruling party, namely Thomas Bukuru and Onesphore Miburo. He is accused of providing information to "rebel groups" and journalists working in exile.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest of an opposition member. The police make themselves an accomplice of the members of the CNDD-FDD party by agreeing to arrest all those who do not support this party.

- Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned of the prolonged detention of four members of the opposition CNL party in detention since 13 November 2019. They are Melchiade Nahabandi, Olivier Nduwimana, Jean de Dieu Nduwimana and a 4th young man, all arrested on the hill Kibingo, Commune Muhuta, province Rumonge (south-west of the country). Relatives report that they are victims of defending themselves in an attack carried out against them by members of the imbonerakure militia on the night of 12 November 2019. During these clashes, a member of the militia of the ruling party was injured. The arrests of CNL party members took place the following day.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as the prolonged detention of these members of the opposition.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia beat Denis Ncurebugufi on The Hill Bibara, Mutumba commune, Karusi province (central-east of the country) on 23 November 2019. Witnesses report that he collected dues from members of his party, the CNL. The imbonerakure militia pushed him into a small bush and beat him several times with sticks.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not detain any of the alleged perpetrators of the beatings, although the victim was able to identify one of the militiamen named Claver. The victim must have been hospitalized.

- Members of the imbonerakure militiamen kidnapped and beat up judges and a clerk on Mudahandwa Hill, in the municipality and province of Bururi (south of the country) on 25 November 2019. The aggressors were trying to prevent the execution of a judgment against one of their fellow members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

Sos-Torture/ Burundi noted that the police intervened and arrested the leader of the Mudahandwa sub-Hill who was one of the aggressors. Other members of the imbonerakure militia have not been arrested.

- The provincial commissioner in complicity with the militia imbonerakure of the ruling party Cndd-Fdd arrested NINGANZA, his wife and named him MUHAGO on the Hill Karindo, commune and province Rutana (southeast of the country) on 28 November 2019. Witnesses report that those arrested are CNL party activists accused of illegal possession of firearms. Witnesses also report that no weapons were seized.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary arrests of political opponents. Sos-Torture/Burundi further notes that the victims are held in the Dungeon of the communal police station of Rutana.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on the serious human rights violations in Burundi through monitoring reports on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform on the realities of the country followed the carnage 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 had just attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital city.

The affected zones are said to be the protestors 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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