



REPORT OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI N ° 121 ISSUED ON APRIL 7, 2018

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period between March 31 and April 7, 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

The report mentions the trial of Germain Rukuki, a human rights activist detained for nine (9) months. The Public Prosecutor's Office requested life imprisonment for Mr. Rukuki, a victim of his former position as an employee of the ACAT-Burundi organization (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture), which was subsequently canceled by the Government. No evidence of prosecutorial charges was provided during the public hearing.

At least eleven (11) persons were murdered during the period, including two (2) during a grenade attack targeting a bar where members of the imbonerakure militiamen were located. Among those murdered, three (3) children were murdered by their father before killing him. A recidivist rapist was also killed by a man as revenge after he raped and murdered his mother.

The report also mentions a girl raped by two teachers at Nyakuguma Basic School on Nyakuguma Hill, Gitanga Commune, Rutana Province on April 2, 2018.

Arbitrary arrests are reported: at least three (3) persons arrested including one

Sos-Torture Burundi is also worried about intimidation and threats to opposition members, including signs at the doors of their homes in Kirundo. These threats are linked to the constitutional referendum scheduled for May 17, 2018.

1. Life imprisonment required against Mr. Germain Rukuki

Sos-Torture Burundi learned about the judgement of the case opposing the Public Prosecutor's Office and Mr. Germain Rukuki a human rights defender in arbitrary detention since 13 July 2017 (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 83**) : [http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-
nume%CC%81ro-83-En.pdf](http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-
nume%CC%81ro-83-En.pdf)).

During public hearing on April 3, 2018, the Ntahangwa Intermediate Court, while roaming in Ngozi (Mr. Rukuki's place of detention), the Public Prosecutor accused Mr. Rukuki of being the intellectual author of the offenses "of assassination of the police

and civilians ", " degradations of public and private buildings ", " overthrow of a constitutional regime ", and" rebellion ".

Mr.Germain Rukuki is the victim of his former employer ACAT-Burundi (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture), an organization written off by the Burundian government and accused of being linked to the failed coup of May 13, 2015 and the insurrectional movement that preceded it. Mr. Rukuki was, at the time of his arrest, an employee of the Association of Catholic Jurists of Burundi (AJCB), and president of the association "Njabutsa Tujane" which fight against poverty through agro-pastoral activities.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the public prosecutor has requested life imprisonment against Germain Rukuki, without providing evidence to the charges against the human rights activist, the case was then taken under advisement and a judgment will be pronounced in the coming days



Germain Rukuki, arbitrarily detained since July 13, 2017

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

- Xavier Ndoreraha, from Rwibakira Hill, Gatara Zone, Busoni Commune, Kirundo Province (North of the country), murdered his three (3) children before ending his life in the evening of Thursday, April 5, 2018. Witnesses report that Ndoreraha's wife had decided to leave her marital home in the company of her three children after being

beaten by her husband on Monday, April 2, 2018. Ndoreraha was successful in recovering her three children and went home with them. It was Friday, April 6, 2018 in the morning that 4 dead bodies of which two hanged were discovered inside the house of Mr. Ndoreraha.

SOS-Torture has learned that the local administration has decided to bury these four bodies but still does not know the reasons behind the killings.



A Dear body of Mr Xavier Ndoreraha and his three children

- Unidentified individuals murdered Mamerte Irakoze (mother of 5 children) on Kirungu hill, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country) on April 1, 2018 in the evening. Relatives report that the victim was slaughtered near his home in a field.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date, nor determined the motive behind this assassination.

- Unidentified individuals attacked a vehicle on the RN5 national road connecting the city of Bujumbura to Cibitoke province, precisely between the 7th and the 8th crossroads in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province (western part of the country) on 1 April 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that a passenger of the vehicle was shot and wounded during the armed ambush.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified a suspect to date.

- A man named Jérémie Nsavyimana tortured his five-year-old child (Eric) on Kirasira hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) with a fire-heated knife on 1 April 2018. report that the father blamed the child for eating on food reserved to his pig herd.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the father was arrested and detained, and awaiting trial. The victim had to be hospitalized following the torture.

- Unidentified individuals murdered two (2) men and injured seven (7) others during a grenade attack in a bistro located on Rugari-Gitamo hill, Gitega commune and province (center of the country) on 1 April 2018 in the evening.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the victims are all members of the ruling party's youth league imbonerakure, who shared a drink at the time of the attack. The Police arrested a suspect after this attack.

- A man named Nkundwanabake murdered Rosalie on Mpungwe Hill, commune and Ruyigi province (East of the country) on April 2, 2018. Witnesses report that the victim is a mother, who was previously raped by the same murderer. The victim's son, who was coming to visit his mother, caught the perpetrator of the crime when he fled, and shot him in the head.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the young man was arrested and detained by the police after having done justice. Relatives also report that Nkundwanabake was known in the locality as a multi-judge thief and rapist who had received several releases despite his arrest as a result of these acts.

- Two teachers Gerard and Léonce raped Bélyse, a student of the 8th year at Nyakuguma Basic School on Nyakuguma Hill, Gitanga Commune, Rutana Province, on April 2, 2018. These teachers, all from the same school, were arrested and detained in Gitanga police cell.
- An unidentified individual assaulted and raped a seven-year-old girl in the Gisovu district, Bubanza commune and province on April 2, 2018. Relatives report that the child was keeping goats in a field at the time of his assault.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date.

- Armed individuals attempted to kill Charles Ndikumagenge on Bambo Hill, Kigoma Zone, Bugabira Commune, Kirundo Province (North) on 3 April 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that two (2) men ambushed the victim who was returning home and attempted to slaughter him with a knife.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the victim was able to escape his attackers, whom he identified as members of the Imbonerakure militiamen. The police have not opened any investigation to date.

- Unidentified individuals attacked a bar in Carama II district, Kinama zone, Ntakangwa commune (north of Bujumbura town) on the 3rd of April 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the grenade caused five (5) injuries among the bar's customers.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date.

- Karegeya gang-murdered Nibaruta on Buta Hill, Gitaba zone, commune and Rutana province on February 4, 2018. The perpetrator was arrested and detained in Rutana police cell.

SOS-Torture / Burundi notes that the police have not yet communicated the motive for the crime.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a girl whose body was found on Kibezi Hill, Kirembe commune, Ngozi province, northern Ethiopia, on 3 April 2018. Witnesses report that the victim was stabbed.

3. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- A police agent arrested Jean Marie Nshigikiwenimana in the center of Gihogazi commune, Karusi province (central-eastern part of the country) on 2 April 2018 in the evening. Relatives report that during the arrest, the communal administrator of Gihogazi accompanied this police agent.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the administrative officer did not communicate the reasons behind this arrest, nor the place of detention of Mr. Nshigikiwenimana. This man is a local youth leader of the FNL opposition party, and could be a victim of his political affiliation.

- Police agents arrested Richard Nkundimana and Fabien Nduwayo at Ndora hill market, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, north-west of the country, on 4 April 2018. Witnesses report that the two men were tied up and transported to the back of the service van of the communal administrator of Bukinanyana.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police are accusing both men of collaborating with rebel groups based in Rwanda. No evidence of any link with armed groups has been provided by the police so far, which gives rise to fears of arbitrary arrest and detention.

- Individuals violently beat up Berchimas Mpozenzi on Kirasira Hill, Butezi Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of the country) on April 3, 2018. Witnesses report that he was assaulted for driving back a goat grazing in his fields.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the victim has a broken arm due to beatings. Police did not arrest any of the suspects, although the victim identified his five (5) slaughters.

4. Rugombo-Cibitoke, unlawfulness of police custody

The climate of tension between Rwanda and Burundi, since the beginning of the crisis in 2015, has an impact on the enjoyment of the human rights of nationals of one country residing in the other. Two people have just spent more than a month in Rugombo police cell, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country).

Livin Nzoyihaya and Charles Twaragiwe were arrested by the head of Rugombo Police Station, OPPI Jean Baptiste Habumuremyi in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province bordering Rwanda. Sources on the spot tell us that these two people have no hearing record so far and no arrest warrants have been presented to those arrested, all of whom have been accused of traveling often to Rwanda. Is fanciful accusations that do not constitute an offense under Burundian law.

SOS-Torture / Burundi notes that these people are rather victims of the persistent tensions that characterize Burundi and Rwanda since the beginning of the crisis in 2015 and calls for the immediate release of these two detainees.

5. Threats and intimidation against political opponents

- Sos-Torture Burundi learned from several victims the threats and intimidations against them to their homes. Several residents of the Kiyovu, Mariza and Mugendo hills, Ntega commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) found signs on their doors on April 3, 2018 mentioning "Oya" ("no" in Kirundi). The victims are activists of FNL opposition parties faithful to Agathon Rwaswa; and FRODEBU Nyakuri whose party chairman is Dr. Jean Minani, current leader of CNARED's main opposition platform. These mentions of the "no" on the doors of the opponents refers to the constitutional referendum scheduled for May 17, 2018, for which the opposition is against.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes a risk of targeted violence, and the responsibility of the administration and the police who have not responded to these intimidations and threats. The houses of supporters and members of the ruling party were marked by "Ego" ("Yes" in Kirundi) to mark the distinction with members of the opposition parties and their support for the change of the Constitution initiated by the power.

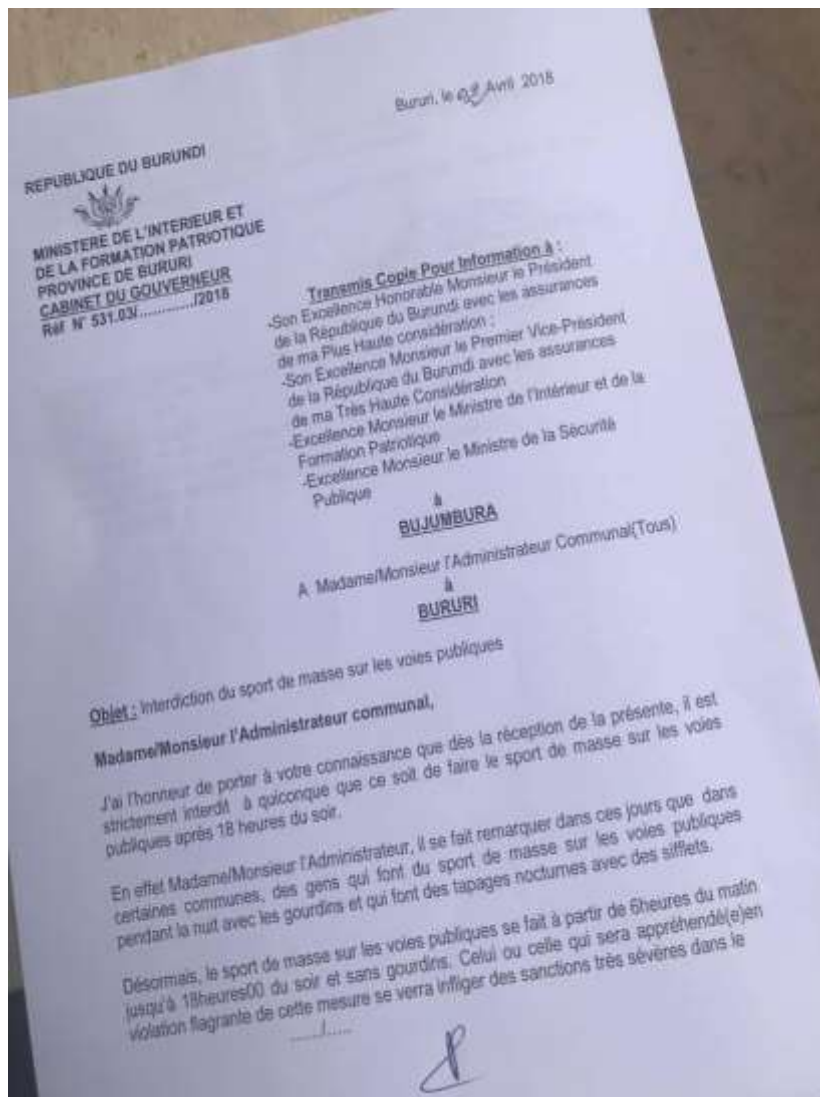
- Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen also demanded that the members of the opposition FNL party on Susa Hill write their doors to vote for the May 17, 2018 referendum. were forced to write "ego" ("yes") to avoid retaliation by members of the CNDD FDD ruling party.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the intimidation and threats are becoming clearer every day as the referendum date approaches, which should allow President Pierre Nkurunziza to lift the lock on the presidential term and to establish an eternal power and without sharing.

- Sos-Torture Burundi learned of the decision of the governor of Bururi province (south of the country) to ban night sports activities in all communes from 2 April 2018. In correspondence, the governor recognizes the existence of "sport mass on public roads during the night with clubs.

This ban refers to the nocturnal activities of members of the imbonerakure militiamen, reported by several residents in Bururi province communes. These activities were intended to intimidate the inhabitants, especially those who do not campaign for the CNDD FDD ruling party. Sos-Torture Burundi has mentioned, in its previous reports, several attacks and human rights violations committed by these militiamen during these nocturnal activities that they justified as being nocturnal rounds.

The Bururi Governor's ban is a salutary decision, which should extend to all provinces as the imbonerakure militiamen stormed several hills at night each night on the pretext of night patrols; which turn out to be threats and intimidations of the population.





This document from the Governor of Bururi implicitly acknowledges the existence of the illegal nocturnal activities of members of the imbonerakure militiamen, and demands their immediate cessation.



SOS-Torture / Burundi was initiated with the objective of informing national and international opinion about 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 carnage 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 mandate namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Hall.

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