

REPORT No. 123 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON APRIL 21, 2018

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period between 14th to 21th April 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least seven (7) persons were murdered during the period among a man with a mental disability was shot by soldiers in Bubanza. A violent attack by an armed group resulted in two (2) deaths and several injuries in the same province. Exchanges of fire between members of the imbonerakure militiamen and soldiers in Cibitoke caused several injuries.

Almost (4) cases of arbitrary arrests are noted, and political motives are behind each of them.

The report also mentions a strengthening of the regime of terror in the provinces by the party on power CNDD FDD paramilitary trainings and specific threats to people who would not consider supporting the revision of the Constitution in the referendum of May 17, 2018. The slogans also warn the inhabitants of a reign for life of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

1. Attempt to the right to life and to physical integrity

- On April 15, 2018 unidentified individuals murdered Gratien Nduwimana whose body was found on Mitakataka hill, Bubanza commune and province (western part of the country). Witnesses said that the victim was beaten with hammers in the head. Mr. Nduwimana was an employee of a private construction company.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered two (2) persons and wounded four others on April 16, 2018 in the evening during an attack on Kagwema-Gihungwe Hill, Gihanga Commune, Bubanza Province (western part of the country). Witnesses among the survivors reported that the attack was conducted on transport vehicles and their passengers, a military position and local households. The murdered victims are a mother and a young student. The armed group that led the attack abducted Two (2) truck drivers.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that no attack of this violence had occurred in the locality for several months. The police and the army have not yet identified the group that carried out the attack; and no armed group made a claim.

- On April 16, 2018 in the evening Soldiers shot and killed a young man on 9th Transversal , Gihanga Commune, Bubanza Province (West of the Country) . Relatives report that the victim suffered from a mental handicap. He was killed for not stopping at a patrol check.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes the assassination of a man who did not endanger these soldiers, especially as he was not armed. Investigations must be conducted to identify the perpetrator (s) and bring him to justice.

- The body of a decaying man was found on a beach in Lake Tanganyika, Ngagara zone, Ntahangwa commune on April 17, 2018. Witnesses reported that he is a man whose body was bare and unrecognizable face following advanced decomposition.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not identify this man, or the circumstances of his death to date.



The decomposing body discovered at the edge of Lake Tanganyika

- Sos-Torture Burundi learned from several witnesses of firefights exchanges between Burundian soldiers and members of the imbonerakure militiamen on Kibande and Gafumbegeti hills, Ruhororo zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on April 18, 2018 In the evening. Four (4) persons were wounded in these clashes (all civilians including a member of the militiamen).

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that these incidents confirm the presence of weapons among members of the imbonerakure militiamen. The militiamen operate at night and organize patrols, ostensibly to secure their localities. Witnesses said that disagreements between these militiamen and the soldiers responsible for securing the border with Rwanda are at

the origin of the exchange of firefights. The arming of civilians increases fears of violent outbreaks in communes where imbonerakure militiamen perform such rounds.



One of the men wounded during the shootings in Mabayi

- On 19 April 2018 in the evening Individuals murdered Martian Kajambo (60 years) on Kanyererwe hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) . Relatives report that the victim was beheaded.

Sos-Torture Burundi states that the police announced the arrest of two suspects: Leonidas Kanani and Ndubaraye, without showing the motives behind the assassination.

- On April 20, 2018 during the night unidentified individuals murdered Roger Ntawukirishamba (33 years) on Mugombwa hill, Gakungu zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) .

Sos-Torture Burundi states that the police have not yet identified any suspect.

- A minor girl (13 years) was raped on Butezi hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province (southeast of the country) on 20 April 2018. Relatives said that the perpetrator of the rape was identified and nickname himself Nyamwero (38 years)

SOS-Torture Burundi states that police have announced the arrest of the man as the main suspect.

2. Attempt to the right to liberty and physical security

- On April 16, 2018, Police agents arrested Norbert Nzoyihaya and another local political representative on Sebeyi hill, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country). Relatives report that the two men are local leaders of the opposition coalition RANAC (National Essembly for Change), respectively RANAC's executive secretary in Buyengero and representative of this coalition on Sebeyi Hill.

Sos-Torture Burundi states that these members of the opposition are accused of having organized a meeting to sensitize for the "no" vote against the revision of the Constitution, a referendum which is scheduled for May 17. This is a second wave of arrests of RANAC leaders in less than a month. The main leader of this coalition, Aloys Baricako, was arrested on March 26, 2018 and released (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 120**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SOS-torture-Burundi-num%C3%A9ro-120-in-En-1.pdf>). The arrests of opposition members are intensifying as the date of the referendum approaches.

- Soldiers arrested Claver Niyongabo nicknamed Nkomo on Gakaranka hill, Mugamba commune, Bururi province (south of the country), on April 17, 2018. Relatives report that the young man was at home, and was taken to the police cell of Mugamba.

Sos-Torture Burundi states an arbitrary arrest and detention, operated without warrants. Relatives said that the young man is accused of having participated in peaceful demonstrations against the third term of President Pierre Nkurunziza in 2015. Several hundred young people have been victims of repression including arbitrary detentions, torture and targeted killings following their arrest. Presumed participation in these events. There is a risk that such repressions will increase as the constitutional referendum is approaching on May 17, 2018.

- Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen arrested Innocent Nijimbere on Kibago Hill, Kibago Commune, Makamba Province (South of the country) on April 18, 2018. Relatives said that he is a young student (15 years), victim of a fight with one of his comrades whose parents are activists of the ruling party CNDD FDD.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes the arbitrary detention of the boy and the complicity of the police who kept him in detention without a warrant. Relatives also said that the young man's parents are militants of the opposition party FNL, and that he is the victim of revenge following his parents' political affiliation.

3. The ruling party strengthens its regime of terror in the provinces

- Sos-Torture Burundi learned about the continued paramilitary training of young members of the imbonerakure militiamen in Kibago commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on April 14, 2018. Witnesses said that militiamen from several zones of the the commune gathered to sing songs aimed at frightening potential opponents of the ruling party CNDD FDD.

These songs and slogans claim that President Pierre Nkurunziza took power, and that he "will never give up"; those who will try to oppose his regime will be "killed" if they do not flee the country.

Sos-Torture Burundi states persistent threats to the inhabitants to terrify them, but also a risk of outbreak of violence following these provocations.

The authorities of Makamba province have not taken any action to prohibit these trainings and threats, which makes them complicit in the actions of the militiamen of the ruling party.

- A similar paramilitary training movement of imbonerakure militiamen took place on the Kirama and Ruhande hills, Murago zone, Burambi commune, Rumonge province (southwest of the country) on 14 April 2018 very early in the morning. Witnesses said that militiamen were running with sticks in hand, threatening opponents of the regime.

These activities indicate a growing political intolerance supported by local authorities. Witnesses say that the authorization to conduct these paramilitary trainings was given by the representative of the CNDD FDD party in Burambi during a meeting a few days earlier with young imbonerakure militiamen.

- Witnesses report serious death threats made by the director of the Nyakirunga Basic School in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country). This educational leader named George Nzokirantevye threatened to kill teachers at his school who would vote for the "no" in the constitutional referendum. Witnesses also report that he threatened personally a teacher Jeannette Ntahorubura that a grenade would destroy her at any time.

Sos-Torture Burundi again notes specific threats to the security of the population. No prosecution is initiated following these death threats.



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 objective of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations ongoing in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly centred 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 rebel groups, which came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital city.

The affected zones are said to have contested President Nkurunziza's third mandate which zones are Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Hal.

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