

REPORT NO. 88 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED 19 AUGUST 2017

This SOS-Torture report covers the period from 12 to 19 August 2017 concerning human rights violations in Burundi.

At least seven (7) persons were assassinated during the period. Among the victims can be found a member of the imbonerakure militiamen executed and thrown into a river to hide the crime. Two (2) others were killed by grenade attacks in Buzanza and Buyenzi, which also resulted in wounding.

The report also refers to forty-nine (49) arbitrary arrests in various localities, including thirty-six (36) young men from the Ruhororo commune in Ngozi. Among those arrested, one (1) young man intercepted by intelligence agents in Bujumbura is reported missing.

SOS-Torture Burundi also devotes part of this report to the human rights situation in the refugee camps, particularly in Tanzania where serious incidents have affected Burundian refugees. The Tanzanian authorities are acting more and more repressively, and no longer hide their desire to repatriate Burundian refugees against their will.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered Anésie Bucumi (70 years old) on Ruharo Hill, Muhwazi zone, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on 12 August 2017. The victim is a widow and relatives report that she was beaten and smothered, before her killers hanged her to a rope to simulate a suicide. SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police evoked land conflicts at the origin of this murder and arrested Thimoté Misago and Gédéon Nyarusage as suspects.



The victim, Anesia, strangled and found hanging on a rope

- Unidentified individuals attacked Fabien Kayobera's house on Rugeyo hill, Ntamba zone, Musigati commune, Bubanza province (west of the country) on 13 August 2017. The perpetrators of the attack launched two grenades in the Room of Mr. Kayobera who did not survive the attack.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police evoked a crime related to land disputes and the arrest of nine (9) persons; but did not communicate the names of those arrested or confirm their connection with the attack.

- Unidentified individuals assassinated Juvenal Havyarimana on Bigera Hill, Mugege zone, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on 13 August 2017 in the evening. The attackers strangled him and hanged him with a shirt to simulate a suicide.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes again that the police evoked land conflicts at the origin of the assassination, and has already arrested two (2) persons, including the father of the victim.

- A simple soldier killed an army non-commissioned officer named Amani Ndayizeye at their position in Nyarutongo, Giteranyi commune, Muyinga province, on August 13, 2017. Witnesses report that the perpetrator is Corporal Mugabo, one of the subordinates of the victim, who took off after the package.
- Armed individuals attacked the governor of Bubanza (western part of the country) who was traveling in his official vehicle in Gihanga commune on 15 August 2017. Witnesses reported that there was a shooting exchange between the armed group and the guard of the governor who repulsed this group and no damage was reported.
- Unidentified individuals murdered Elie Kwizera, whose body was found almost unrecognizable in the Ndurumu River between Buhiga and Bugenyuzi communes, Karusi province (northeast of the country) on August 16, 2017. Upon discovering the body, wrapped in a mosquito net with tied arms and feet; sign of an execution. The victim was identified only the day after the discovery of the lifeless body.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that Elie Kwizera was a member of the dreaded imbonerakure militia of the ruling CNDD FDD party in Gitega (center of the country) where he resided. No suspects identified by police to date.



The body of Elie Kwizera, drafted from the river Ndurumu



The victim, Elie Kwizera, during his lifetime

A few days ago, another victim was found decapitated in the same river Ndurumu at the commune Giharo in Rutana province on August 10, 2017 (see report Sos-Torture Burundi N ° 87: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nums%2087-en-En.pdf>).

- Another body was found in Gihogazi commune, Karusi province on August 17, 2017. The victim, murdered, has not been identified by the police to date.

Despite the lack of identification, Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police evoked a flight of goats that would have gone bad.

- Unidentified individuals attacked by the grenade two small bistros on the fifteenth avenue in Buyenzi zone, Mukaza commune (center of the city of Bujumbura) on August 17, 2017. The attack killed one victim and twenty-nine (29) injured. The Police arrested three (3) persons including two (2) Rwandan nationals who worked in the bistros under attack.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that a previous grenade attack in the Buyenzi zone had caused further casualties on 8 August 2017 (see SOS-Torture Burundi report No. 87: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nume%CC%81ro-87-en-En.pdf>).

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Chief National intelligence Cibitoke (northwestern province) Athanase Gahungu arrested Damien Nzomvita on Ruhwa Hill, Rugombo commune in Cibitoke on August 12, 2017. He is the father of the family (Five children) of Rwandan nationality who lived in Rugombo commune for more than 20 years. Witnesses report that he was boarded in the vehicle of this SNR officer registered D3978A.

SOS-Torture Burundi noted that the chief of the SNR of Cibitoke Province did not have a warrant at the time of the arrest. He accuses Mr. Nzomvita of collaborating with Rwandan soldiers. These charges are not supported by any evidence, which raises fears of arbitrary arrest, especially since the intelligence service did not communicate the place of detention.

- The imbonerakure militiamen illegally arrested and tortured Harimenshi on the Nyarurambi hill in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, on 12 August 2017. Witnesses report that the militiamen accused him of speaking with a friend of his Paramilitary training of these youth of ruling party CNDD FDD. These training sessions take place regularly on the hills on Saturday mornings and raise the fear of the inhabitants (see Sos-Torture Burundi report N ° 77: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nume%CC%81ro-77-en-En.pdf>).

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that in addition to these ongoing training, the imbonerakure militias are imposing their strength and maintaining fear among the population by committing such abuses with impunity.

- National Intelligence Service agents arrested Justin Hatungimana in Ngozi central province in northern of the country on August 12, 2017. He is a finalist of the ITAB in Kirundo (north of the country) at his home in the Rutongo zone, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) after having passed his state examination.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the SNR did not communicate the reasons for its arrest, which was also carried out without a warrant.



Justin Hatungimana, arrested by SNR in Ngozi

- Imbonerakure militiamen illegally arrested seven (7) persons on Kagege hill, Mpinga zone, Vugizo commune, Makamba province (southern Rwanda) on 12 August 2017. Witnesses report that militiamen accuse them of wanting to join rebel groups and tortured them with sticks. The most seriously injured were evacuated to a health center for treatment.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the ruling party's Militias Imbonerakure has carried out unlawful arrests and the police have agreed to put these people from Buhiga commune in Karusi province (center-east of the country) into an inmate without investigation and in violation of the procedure. The police thus confirm his complicity in the acts of human rights violations committed by the militiamen imbonerakure.

- Imbonerakure militiamen impose their law on the inhabitants of Nyabitsinda commune and particularly in the functioning of households. A group of militiamen led by Ferdinand Kanani demanded Melta Ntahobari from Ruharo Hill, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) to pay them the equivalent of 30,000 Burundian local beer on 13 August 2017. Witnesses report that Mr. Ntahobari is seeking to comply with the requirements of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza with regard to the regularization of marriages. This

order requires those living in concubinage or polygamy to formalize their marriage before the civil registry before the end of this year 2017.

Relatives report that Mr. Ntahobari, who has two concubines, wished to formalize the civilian with his first wife. The militia imbonerakure of the commune Nyabitsinda nevertheless require him to keep his second concubine and utter threats in case he does not execute this order. The imbonerakure militia imposes their choices in the households, which risks creating more tensions in the families. The administration must ensure that everyone's rights and freedoms are respected.

- National Intelligence Service agents arrested Manasseh Kazungu on Kagome Hill in Vyanda commune, Bururi province, on 13 August 2017. He is a pastor of the Pentecostal Church who had just completed his Cult before arrest. Witnesses report that the SNR agents accuse Pastor Kazungu of subversion and prevent residents from exercising their civic rights for having asked those present to worship not to go to the elections in 2020 and the imbonerakure not to return during his next sermons.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that Mr. Kazungu is also a former soldier, retired from the Burundi Armed Forces (formerly FAB). The inhabitants of the commune of Vyanda, as well as the Mugamba commune where the pastor originated, also demonstrated in 2015 against the third term of President Pierre Nkurunziza and suffered repression. This is undoubtedly an arbitrary arrest, accentuated by the pastor's ties with the regions that have demonstrated against the third mandate; and its positions on the fear of a fourth term in 2020.

Mr. Kazungu was finally transferred to the Bururi Central Prison on 16 August 2017 on the Bururi Prosecutor's Office.



Manasseh Kazungu, a pastor of the Pentecostal church held in prison following his sermons

- Imbonerakure militiamen beat up Therence on Dutwe hill, commune and Ruyigi province (east of the country) on August 13, 2017. Witnesses report that a hill elected named Gélase called a group of imbonerakure led by Bahati to ask them Intervene while customers of a bistro were bickering. The imbonerakure militia took Therence to beat him with sticks.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the victim is unable to move due to the beatings received. The police did not intervene and no investigation was carried out.

- Cibitoke National intelligence chief Athanase Gahungu arrested Jean-Pierre Niyokwizigirwa on Ndava Hill in Buganda commune on 14 August 2017. The SNR officer accused him of illegal possession of a weapon.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that no weapons were seized on Mr. Niyokwizigirwa who was arrested without a warrant and taken to the SNR cell. This is an arbitrary arrest. The SNR must release Mr. Niyokwizigirwa.

- Police agents arrested thirty-six (36) young men on Gitamo Hill, Ruhororo Town, Ngozi Province (northern part of the country) on 16 August 2017. Relatives reported that they were traveling to Tanzania in search of job and were intercepted in three vehicles.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not specify any offenses committed by these young people, but found it suspicious that young men travel in groups to the same destination. This is a violation of the freedoms of movement. The commune Ruhororo is home to a site of displaced survivors of the crisis of 1993,

whose occupants are constantly threatened with expulsion by the power and especially since the beginning of the crisis of the third mandate.

- National intelligence agents arrested Fiston Nsengiyumva in the Kamenge zone of Ntahangwa commune (northern Bujumbura) on 18 August 2017. Relatives reported that the young man was intercepted near the bar named Iwabo n'abantu which belonged to former intelligence Chief Adolphe Nshimirimana). Near this bar, a police barrier is erected, but plainclothes SNR agents as well as imbonerakure militiamen carry out arbitrary arrests, sometimes followed by enforced disappearances.

The SNR did not communicate the reasons for his arrest or his place of detention, which raises fears of a kidnapping. Mr. Nsengiyumva lives in Rwanda and visits his mother.



Fiston Nsengiyumva, the young man arrested by the SNR in Kamenge

3. Germain Rukuki, former member of ACAT-Burundi, is still in prison

On 14 August 2017, Germain Rukuki appeared before the Council chamber of the Ntahangwa District Court (north of Bujumbura), whose judges traveled to Ngozi Prison (north of the country) to testify. Mr. Rukuki is a former member of ACAT-Burundi, arrested on 13 July 2017 at his home by agents of the National Intelligence Service.

Germain Rukuki is accused of interfering with the security of the State and collaborating with people outside Burundi. Mr. Rukuki is a victim of his past membership in ACAT-Burundi, a human rights organization that was canceled by the Minister of the internal affairs. Unlike his period of detention at the SNR cells where he was denied all assistance, he was able to be assisted by lawyers this time. However, the judges decided to keep him in custody content of the order made on August 17, 2017.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes, however, that Mr Rukuki is a victim of repression, as the authorities continue to attack human rights defenders living in Burundi.

4. Human rights violations in some refugee camps in Burundi

SOS-Torture Burundi noted violations of the rights of Burundian refugees who fled the repression due to President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term crisis. Many of these violations are recorded in Tanzania camps and the Democratic Republic of Congo near the border with Burundi. However, there is a complicity of the local authorities of the host countries, enabling officials of the Burundian national intelligence service and the imbonerakure militia to easily reach the refugees.

- Thus, the Nduta camp in Tanzania is lodged by more than 130,000 Burundian refugees. New refugees continue to arrive, despite calls for repatriation by the Burundian authorities. Sources in Nduta report that 15,000 refugees have expressed the need to be repatriated since the group arrived in Nduta in early 2017. Bujumbura's power supporters are raising awareness and encouraging refugees to return, Enter and leave the camp as they wish.

They make clandestine meetings and warn those who are reluctant to return to Burundi that they will be attacked and killed if they stay in the camp. The newcomers to Nduta, however, describe the terror that reigns in the hills, where the imbonerakure militiamen and intelligence officers persecute the inhabitants.

SOS-Torture Burundi also notes an inadequate rationing of refugees, which raises fears of a complicity of the Tanzanian authorities with Bujumbura. The World Food Program (WFP) in Tanzania has significantly reduced the amount of food. Each refugee thus receives 10,640kg of cornmeal, 3,360kg of peas, 560g of oil, 140g of salt and 1,400kg of soya porridge. This amount varies according to the

willingness of the WFP authorities in Tanzania, which has decreased by half recently. This lack of food increases refugee food insecurity.

The security of the refugees is also relative since the Nduta camp is a few kilometers from the Burundian border. Refugees evoke back and forth movements of Burundi secret agents. Murders were also recorded among the refugees, as well as the discovery of firearms in the possession of some refugees. The security of Nduta refugees is also threatened by local populations in Tanzania who are chasing refugees who are trying to find firewood outside the camp. Cases of rape have been reported, including victims of Burundian refugee women in the Nduta camp.

- The Tanzanian authorities through the police have beaten Burundian asylum-seekers in Tanzania who had already been admitted to the Bukiriro reception center. Tanzanian police officers ordered asylum-seekers to return to Burundi by force, although they had fled as a result of threats to their safety. The Tanzanian government, in doing so, became an accomplice to Bujumbura's repression and no longer concealed its desire to repatriate refugees against their will.

- The halving of the food ration of refugees is also perceived as aiming to starve them to speed up this forced repatriation. This weaning resulted in riots between 13 and 14 August in Nduta camp, where the refugees rebelled against the lack of food. The Tanzanian police used force to quell the protests (tear gas and live ammunition), causing the death of two refugees, including a mother who had just given birth and a newborn and fifty wounded.





Images of two wounded refugees in Nduta during the Tanzanian police crackdown

- Five (5) Burundian refugees were attacked and wounded while traveling outside the Nduta camp in Tanzania to search for firewood on 17 August 2017. Witnesses among the victims reported that they had been surrounded and beaten by men armed with knives, spears, arrows and machetes and left them for dead. They are cared for by the NGO Médecins sans frontières. Tanzanian police and local authorities have not investigated or reassured security measures to protect refugees.

The SOS-Torture / Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on serious human rights violations ongoing 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 11 and 12 December 2015 by police and military under the pretext of prosecuting rebel groups who came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital. The affected zones are said to be challenging the third term of President Nkurunziza Musaga which are the following Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Council.