



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

### REPORT No. 104 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI RELEASED ON 9 DECEMBER 2017

This report from SOS-Torture covers the period from 2 to 9 December 2017 concerning human rights violations in Burundi.

At least five (5) people were murdered during the period. Among the victims are two (2) young men from Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province shot dead by patrol members of the Imbonerakure militiamen. Eleven (11) others were injured in grenade attacks and attempted assassinations, including a man who was seriously wounded by a soldier and a policeman who was trying to shoot him in Mitakataka.

The report also mentions about thirty persons arrested, including twenty-two (22) at Muhwazi communal high school in Ruyigi province following a simple school strike. Cases of torture involving a police officer in Bweru as well as militia from the ruling party youth league in Bubanza are also reported.

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

- A police agent shot and killed one of his colleagues in Kanyosha zone, Muha commune (south of Bujumbura city) on December 2, 2017 in the evening. The author of the shooting was apprehended, but the reasons for his act are not known to date.

- Individuals murdered Adelin Hakizimana and Eric Ndabakeshimana on Benga Hill, Kanyosha Commune, Bujumbura Province (a few kilometers from Bujumbura City) on December 2, 2017. Witnesses report that both victims were shot dead by youth Imbonerakure militiamen patrolling the zone.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes the possibility that these two men were shot dead by young people illegally patrolling because only the defense and security forces have the prerogatives to patrol. Night patrols are regularly conducted by members of the imbonerakure militiamen, and denounced by the population. The police refused to disclose the exact circumstances of this double murder, as well as the identities of the alleged perpetrators.

- Unidentified gunmen attacked Paul Musafiri's home on Mpishi Hill, Musigati Commune, Bubanza Province (western part of the country) on 4 December 2017 in the evening. The attackers injured Wilson Miburo, a domestic worker in Mr. Musafiri's home who is also the administrative head of the hill.

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

- Members of the imbonerakure militia tried to murder Juvenal Nsengiyumva in Nyabitare, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on December 4, 2017. Relatives report that the victim is a teacher of Nyabitare high school, and that the director of the school Jean Fatavyanka, led the group of militiamen who wanted to physically eliminate the teacher.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that members of the militiamen retracted at the last moment. The director of Nyabitare High School, however, has threatened teachers who are not members of the ruling party that he will cut them one by one like maize. These are serious threats from an educator, the police must ensure the safety of the people targeted by the threats.

- An unidentified individual attacked by granades the bus parking lot serving the north of the capital near the fourth avenue on Murundi People's road, Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune (Bujumbura city center) on 4 December 2017 In the evening. The attack resulted in five (5) injuries among those present at the parking lot.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that police have announced the arrest of a suspect, without communicating his identity even less the motives behind this despicable act.

- A police and an army agent attempted to kill Jean Berchmans Ndayiragije in the Mitakataka zone, commune and province Bubanza (west of the country) on December 5, 2017. Relatives report that the victim was seriously injured in chest and thigh. Mr. Ndayiragije is a retired former military officer; decision that led to a mental disability. He had spent time in the FNL rebel group before joining the army.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the perpetrators of the attempt assassination are still free of their movements.

- One (or more) individual (s) murdered Laurence Nkurikiye whose body was found on Kibagiro hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province (center of the country) on December 5, 2017. Witnesses report that the body was lying in a few meters from his home.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police announced the arrest of the victim's husband as the main suspect.

- Individuals attacked by grenade another bus parking located in Musaga zone, Muha commune (south of Bujumbura city) on December 6, 2017 in the evening. Three (3) persons were injured as a result of the attack. At the same time, eyewitnesses report that another grenade dropped on 18th Avenue Buyenzi Zone, Mukaza Commune (central Bujumbura) injured a fourth person.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date, and no group or organization has claimed responsibility for the grenade attacks.

- A young woman was murdered in Kajaga, Mutimbuzi zone, Bujumbura province on December 7, 2017. The young woman was carrying several traces of knives on her body.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that police have announced the arrest of his compagnon as the main suspect.



**The young woman stabbed several times**



The alleged author arrested on the scene according to the police

## 2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Capitoline Karenzo (46 years) and Samuel Ishimwe (20) on Buheka Hill, Nyanza-Lac Commune, Makamba Province (south of the country) on November 20, 2017. Relatives report that these two persons are victims of having opposed a decision of the National Commission of Lands and Other Goods (CNTB), which wanted to implement the measure of the Appeals Committee within the CNTB while the case is still pending in court level of the Special Court of Land and Other Property.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that these two (2) persons are victims of arbitrary detention, also denounced by local administrative officials. Ms. Karenzo, who has been a widow for some time, also suffers from diabetes and requires adequate treatment that is not available in Nyanza-Lac commune. The police must release these two persons who have not committed any offense, since the case is already before the higher court, it is advisable to wait for the exhaustion of the remedies provided for in the law creating the the Land and Other Property Commission.

- Police chief of Bweru commune arrested and tortured Jean Claude Nduwimana on Ruyagira hill, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on November 28, 2017. Relatives report that the victim had just returned from exile after being a refugee in Rwanda. The police chief of Bweru accused him of joining his Tutsi brothers in Rwanda and wanted to enlist for the rebellion.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police chief of Bweru commune is not at his first victim of torture. He had previously arrested and tortured Sylvain Kaganagiza on Kirambi hill, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country) on 9 September 2017. He then put him in jail while the victim was bleeding and his health was deteriorating (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report N ° 92**: <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-nums%CC%81ro-92-En.pdf>). This police officer has never been prosecuted for any of these acts of torture so far.

- The head of national intelligence service of Makamba province (south of the country) tortured a girl named Diane in the center of Makamba commune on November 30, 2017. Eyewitnesses report that the girl was in a petrol station prone a fuel shortage for several weeks. The head of the NIS Jovin Cishahayo arrested her and beat her, accusing her of being at the origin of an unfair distribution of the fuel between the consumers.

SOS-Torture Burundi, however, learned that several young members of the ruling party's imbonerakure militiamen have forced service station managers to supervise fuel distribution following a general shortage in order to benefit from bribes the anarchic distribution of this product. The beaten girl was the victim of this anarchic distribution, and evacuated to a health center for treatment following her critical health condition.

- Members of the Imbonerakure militia arrested and tortured Emmanuel Niragira in the Ntamba zone, Musigati commune, Bubanza province (west of the country) on 3 December 2017. The victim is also a member of the imbonerakure militia. Mr. Niragira was taken to the home of the militia representative of Bubanza province, where he was tortured as a correction.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the victim was driven at the health center dying, and suffered torture-related injuries. None of the alleged torturers have been arrested to date. It is feared that the victim would not dare to testify to the torture suffered, given his belonging to the same group of militiamen.

- Imbonerakure militiamen assaulted Isaac Ngerageze on Nyabigina hill, commune and Makamba province (south of the country) on December 4, 2017. Relatives report that this group of militiamen illegally entered the victim's home,

assaulted him physically before embarking him to a place not communicated to the family.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the local police agents tried to oppose the arrest, but the administration at the communal level supported the militiamen; arguing that the victim would be hostile to power. It is an unlawful and arbitrary arrest and detention, for which the administration is accomplice. Police agents also confirm their inability to stop the actions of members of the imbonerakure militiamen.

- Police agents arrested twenty-two (22) people at Muhwazi Communal High School, Nyabitsinda Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of the country) on 4 December 2017. They are ten (10) teachers as well as twelve (12) class delegates from the institution. Witnesses report that the arrests were the result of a strike action to challenge draconian measures imposed by the school principal and the intention to force students to pay extra fees.

The arrested teachers are Olivier Nsoreyaha, Godeliève Nyawenda, Aline Ndagijimana, Régis Mbonihankuye, Lameck Ndayishimiye, Rémy Cishahayo, Pierre Nsabimana, Gérard Nkurikiye, Godefroid Nkurunziza and Rémy Ndikumana. SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the first five (5) of the list were released the following day following their membership of the ruling party. Relatives report that other teachers are victims of being opposition activists, including the FNL party faithful to Agathon Rwasa.

- Police agents arrested Constantin Gisanganya in Gitanga commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on December 6, 2017. He is the communal leader of the youth league of the FNL opposition party faithful to Deputy Rwasa. Witnesses report that he was arrested after an altercation with members of the ruling party's imbonerakure militia who had just assaulted him in a local bistro.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not arrest any other person among the attackers of Mr. Gisanganya. The relatives denounce political motives because this opponent was the only arrested.

- Police agents arrested Janvier, Callixte Nkundwa and Justin Harerimana in the center of Buganda commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on December 7, 2017. Relatives report that the three men including members of the



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opposition party FNL faithful to the deputy Agathon Rwasa. Police agents present accused them of collaborating with rebel groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police handed the three men to the National Intelligence Service in Bujumbura. The SNR must communicate the situation of the three detainees and the reasons for their arrest.

*The SOS-Torture / Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about serious violations of human rights under way in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly on torture and arbitrary arrest, forced 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 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.*