



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT No. 110 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 20, 2018

This SOS-Torture report covers the period from 13 to 20 January 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least five (5) persons were murdered during the period in different locations. Among the victims a mother and her child, killed by grenade in Kirundo. One detainee also died as a result of torture inflicted by agents of the National Intelligence Service in Muyinga Province.

The report also mentions more than 128 arrests including ninety (90) members of the Marial movement arrested in the wake of prayer in Ruyigi. A dozen of young men aboard a bus were also arrested and incarcerated in Rumonge.

Required contributions to executives, agents and private sector actors create protests: at least seven (7) nurses from Kinyinya commune were arrested for peacefully demonstrating against the withdrawal of forced contributions from their salaries.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered Nivelles Ngendakumana and his 3 years child on Rambo Hill, commune and Kirundo province (north of the country) with a grenade on January 12, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that her husband André Nteziryayo was seriously injured during the attack at their home.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date, but evokes land disputes as a motive behind this attack. Police agents also arrested three (3) family members of the victims. Relatives report, however, that a few weeks before the attack, Mr. Nteziryayo was the victim of persecution and arbitrary arrest following his refusal to join the ruling CNDD FDD party in Kirundo.



Ms. Ngendakumana and her grandson, murdered in a grenade attack at home

- National Intelligence Service agents tortured Maurice Juma, who died on 8 January 2018 in a police cell in Muyinga (north of the country). Relatives report that the victim was arrested a few days earlier as part of a double homicide investigation.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the agents responsible for torture are always free from their movements because no investigation has been opened to identify them and bring them to justice.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Anastasie Ntahompagaze 65 years whose body was found on Gisoro Hill, Ruyigi Commune, in the east of the country on 15 January 2018. Witnesses report that the victim was strangled using a rope.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police arrested (2) two children of the victim, Viola Niyonkuru and Joseph Miburo, presenting them as suspects.



The victim Anastasie Ntahompagaze, found murdered

- An individual raped a girl on Munanira Hill, Kivyuka Zone, Musigati Commune, Bubanza Province (West of the Country) on January 18, 2018. The victim, E.N., is a 7 year girl.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes the arrest of a 15 years suspect, a resident of Ndava Hill, Muhanga Commune, Kayanza Province, in the north-west of the country.

- Individuals murdered Martin whose body was discovered on Kiyazi hill, Vugizo commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on January 18, 2018. Witnesses report that the victim is a police agent from the former army Forces Burundian Armies (FAB).

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen illegally arrested Jean Ndikumana, Nsengiyumva, Hakizimana, Nibizi and Nzoyihaya in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province (north-west) on January 12, 2018. Witnesses report that all 5 men are activists an opposition party FNL faithful to Deputy Agathon

Rwasa. They are accused of carrying out an awareness campaign for the rejection of the draft revision of the Constitution launched by the Burundian government.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes arbitrary and illegal arrests without warrants, and carried out by individuals not authorized to conduct such operations. The five (5) persons arrested are victims of their political affiliation. Sos-Torture Burundi also notes the complicity of the police who agreed to incarcerate them in jail without a record.

- Young members of the Imbonerakure militiamen beat Bukeyeneza, Rwayoyve and Mujawaha on Nyabigozi hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on 12 January 2018. Witnesses report that the three (3) men are accused of setting fire to a pineapple field owned by the Burundian President.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes the use of violence by members of the imbonerakure militiamen, who have also substituted themselves to the police to carry out arrests. The Musongati police agent put the three (3) men without a file in the cells.

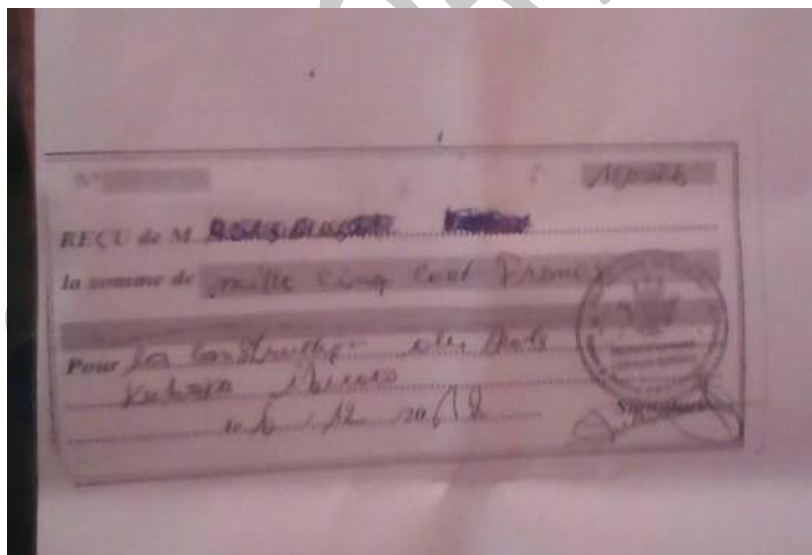
- Young members of the ruling party's imbonerakure militia tortured Pascaline Ndayikeza on Rugoti Hill, Butezi Commune, Ruyigi Province, East of the country, on January 13, 2018. Witnesses report that the victim was in his field at the time of his aggression.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes a very critical state of health of the victim following the blows and wounds. Ms. Ndayikeza was evacuated to hospital being in agony. Sos-Torture Burundi also notes the inertia and complicity of police agents who conducted any investigation that could lead to the arrest of torturers.

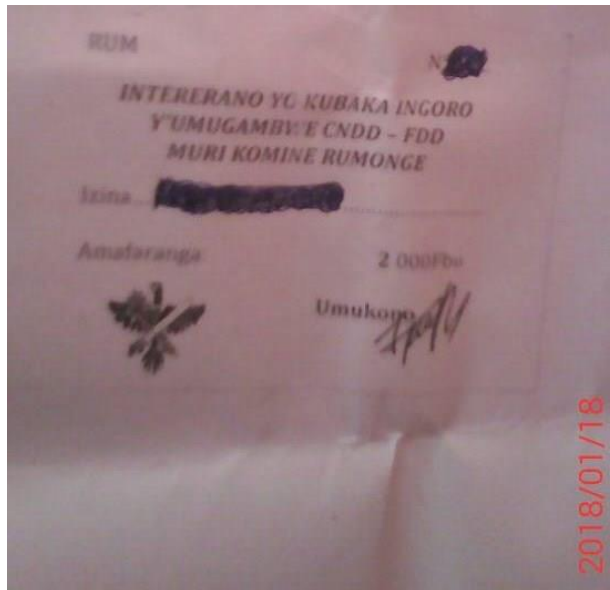
- Police agents arrested seven (7) nurses in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country) on January 13, 2018. Eyewitnesses report that these persons had previously waved protest placards to challenge the mandatory contributions collected by the authorities on their wages.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police accuses them of unauthorized protest. These are arbitrary arrests, especially since the law governing demonstrations does not require prior authorization, people who have peacefully demonstrated with posters at their workplace. Sos-Torture Burundi also notes that nurses, like other categories of the population at the moment, are forced to contribute between 5,000 and 10,000 francs each month on their salaries. The local authorities that collect these funds have not initiated any traceability and do not take into account the increasingly difficult living conditions of the population. These forced contributions are also imposed in several other provinces of the country (see report **Sos-Torture Burundi N ° 109**:<http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num%C3 % A9ro-109-en-En.pdf>). The nurses were released on January 17, 2018.

This is the case in Rumonge province (south-west of the country) where the inhabitants have to contribute for various constructions, without a detailed report of the funds collected and their actual use. Forced contributions are also intended for the party in power CNDD FDD, whether the contributor is a member of this party or not.



A receipt unveiled by a resident for the construction of a bridge, contribution of 1,500 francs



A second receipt unveiled and intended for the local permanence of the CNDD FDD party at the rate of 2,000 francs (logo of the party's eagle at the bottom left and the signature on the right)

- Police agents arrested fifteen (15) persons including Burundians and Tanzanians on Mutambara hill, commune and Rumonge province (south-west of the country) on January 13, 2018. Relatives report that these persons are accused of beliefs obscurantists, having been arrested in possession of certain traditional medicines, beverages, food and cattle.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that these persons have not committed any offense requiring imprisonment, the freedom of religion and belief is normally guaranteed because Burundi is a secular state.





Some of those arrested by the police in Rumonge

- Police agents arrested at least ninety (90) persons in Gasanda district, Ruyigi commune and province (East of the country) on January 13, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that these persons are members of the Marial movement where worshipers meet for prayers and fraternity.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that those arrested had informed the local administrative authorities of their vigil of prayer, although freedom of belief and religion are guaranteed in Burundi. The police detained all of them for nearly 48 hours before releasing them on 15 January 2018 without explanation of the reasons for their detention.

- A man named Elias Nyandwi buried alive two young children who were stilling maize in a field on Nyamabere hill, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province (western part of the country) on January 15, 2018. Witnesses report that the victims, Egide Bigirimana (10 years) and Bayisenge, were beaten before being buried alive up to the level of the neck.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the author of this act has not yet been apprehended by the police.



One of the young children buried living in Nyamabere

- Agents of the national intelligence service, the police, and young members of the imbonerakure militia violated the homes of François Ntacobitwaye and Nicolas Hakizimana on the hills of Munyika I and Mparambo II, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of January 15, 2018). Relatives report that only these two households were searched, during which all property was violated.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes a relentlessness on these two families, for the fact that one of the heads of household is a member of the opposition coalition Amizero y'Aburundi and the second left the ruling party CNDD FDD. Sos-Torture Burundi also notes the presence of imbonerakure militiamen during searches, where police agents and the SNR said they were looking for weapons in the possession of both men. Excavations have not resulted in any seizures, but targeted families fear for their safety.

- Police agents arrested ten (10) young men who were traveling by bus on Magara hill, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) on 16 January 2018. Witnesses report that these young men originated from different localities: Mukike commune, Bujumbura province, Ruteme hill in Bugarama commune and Maramvya hill in Burambi commune.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police accuse them of wanting to travel to Tanzania without travel documents. These young men are also from different

localities whose inhabitants took an active part in the protests against the Burundian President's third term in 2015.

- Agents of the national intelligence service arrested Thierry Ciza and Pacifique Butoyi at their home in the Quarter IV , Ngagara Zone, Ntakangwa commune (north of the city of Bujumbura) on January 18, 2018. Relatives report that the two young men are brothers.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the SNR agents had no warrants, and gave no explanation during the arrests.



Thierry Ciza, one of the two young men embarked by the SNR



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SOS-Torture / Burundi was initiated with the aim 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 slaughter of a hundred persons killed during the day of December 11 and 12, 2015 by the police and military 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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