

## **SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT No. 138 ISSUED AUGUST 4, 2018**

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period between 28 July and 4 August 2018 concerning the cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least six (6) persons were murdered in different locations during that period. Among the victims, there is a man whose body was found decomposing on Lake Tanganyika. A man has also murdered his son and the son's mother, and remains free following the protection he enjoys from members of imbonerakure militiamen.

The report notes a new case of rape: at least five (5) men in an area mostly controlled by imbonerakure militiamen during the night sexually assaulted a 24 years woman in Bubanza.

Arbitrary and irregular arrests noted at least eleven (11) listed cases of which ten (10) concern members of FNL the opposition party.

Intensive and systematic harassment of the population in several communes of the country is observed. Members of imbonerakure militiamen who demand forced contributions for the 2020 elections carry out these persecutions.

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

- On 23 July 2018 Unidentified individuals murdered Niyokindi (man) whose body was found on Juragati Hill, Kayero Zone, Mpinga Kayove Commune, Rutana Province (south-east of the country). Witnesses report that the body of the victim lay in a gutter.

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

- In the evening of 22 July 2018 An individual named Nestor Ntirampeba murdered Fabiola Niyonzima and his 8-years son at their home on Rugata Hill, Biyorwa Zone, Butaganzwa Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of the country). Relatives report that the perpetrator of the crime is the biological father of the boy. He had just lost a lawsuit against the victim, Ms. Niyonzima, where the court required her to concede a piece of land to her to feed their son.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the victims were beheaded. Butaganzwa police have not conducted any arrest to date. Relatives of the victims report that Mr. Ntirampeba enjoys the protection of members of imbonerakure militiamen, following his membership to the ruling party.

The police and burundian justice have no power over the powerful militiamen of the ruling party.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Marcienne (woman, 60 years), whose body was found on Butezi Hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province (south-east of the country) on July 25, 2018. Witnesses' report that the victim was received several stabbings.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Butezi's police have not yet identified any suspects to date, nor have they determined the circumstances behind Ms. Marcienne's murder.

- On July 28, 2018 in the evening individuals murdered Emile Kurigomba nicknamed Mworoha on Burenza hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country). Relatives report that the victim received two stab wounds on the head and in the stomach.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not yet arrested any suspects. Relatives of the victim, however, report that the named Cyriaque Ngendankazi in the home of the latter murdered Mr. Emile, after being surprised him with his wife. Mr. Ngendankazi allegedly acted with the complicity of some members of imbonerakure militiamen who accompanied him.

- On July 30, 2018 in the evening unidentified individuals sexually assaulted K.K. (24 years old) in Bubanza commune and province (west of the country). The victim reports that five men arrested her on her return from Bubanza Hospital, who raped her in turn. The young woman was evacuated for emergency care.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the victim has not identified any of his attackers, and the police have also not arrested any suspects to date. Relatives report that the hills are under control imbonerakure militiamen

during the night, and suspect one of the groups of these militiamen to be the perpetrators of the rape.

- On 1 August 2018 unidentified individuals murdered a man whose decomposing body was discovered at the edge of Lake Tanganyika in Busambi area, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province (south-west of the country). Witnesses report that the victim was discovered by fishermen.

Sos-Torture/ Burundi notes that police has not yet identified victim so far. It could be an extrajudicial execution.

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

- On July 26, 2018 police agents arrested Aboubakar Ahishakiye, Majidi, Juma, Niyonkuru and Deo Rucahobatinya on Bugorora hill, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province (north of the country). Relatives report that all these men are activists of FNL opposition party faithful to the MP Agathon Rwasa. During the operation, imbonerakure militiamen accompanied police agents to help them identify the targeted individuals. They are accused of recruiting and training rebels.

SOS-Torture/Burundi also notes the arrest of a sixth person: Alban Asman was arrested on Ceru mountain, Kirundo commune and province on July 31, 2018. Mr. Asman is also a member of the opposition party FNL.

Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned from relatives that Mr.Aboubakar Ahishakiye has been tortured by Kirundo province head of the intelligence service. He is not allowed any visit, and remains in isolation and handcuffed inside the cell. Kirundo prosecution office has not yet charged any of the six persons arrested so far, and Bwambarangwe police have not confirmed any charges against them.

- On July 28, 2018 members of Imbonerakure militiamen arrested Léa Kabura and Goreth Ndikumana on Nkondo sub-hill, Nyabitsinda hill and commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country). Relatives report that militiamen to sensitize the population not to contribute for 2020 elections accused the two women. The two victims are members of FNL opposition party faithful to MP Agathon Rwasa, and would be victims of their political affiliation.



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes illegal and irregular arrests and the complicity of local administrative officials and police agents who put the two women in cells. Ms. Kabura is incarcerated with her two infants, which is another violation of the law and especially the child rights laws. Relatives report that Ms. Ndikumana was released on 31 July 2018 after payment of 2,000 francs as a contribution for the 2020 elections.

- On 29 July 2018 in the evening members of the Imbonerakure militiamen violently beat Félicien Hakizimana, Louis Ntibarukinga and Jean Pierre Ntibarukinga on Bweru and Commune, Ruyigi Province (East) . Witnesses report that the victims were returning from a ceremony of opening a local headquarters of FNL loyal to Jacques Bigirimana (CNDD-FDD allied party). All three were wounded by clubbing and were accused by imbonerakure militiamen of leaving the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of aggression and the impunity enjoyed by its perpetrators; who have been identified by the victims: Daniel Maganya (Commissioner), Lambert Nzeyimana, Firmin Ndorukwigira, Adrien Bashirubwoba, Bucumi Maganya and Pascal Ndorukwigira. The victims have lodged complaints with the judicial police, but relatives report that no follow-up has been reserved to the complaint. This is a violation of the proceedings, and an eloquent and irrefutable evidence of complicity and complacency vis-à-vis imbonerakure militiamen who assaulted these people.

- On July 31, 2018 police agents arrested Emmanuel Ndikuriyo on Kiyange hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province (southern of the country). Witnesses report that he had just been searched at his home. Mr. Ndikuriyo is a retired soldier from the former Burundian Armed Forces (ex-FAB). Police agents arrested him for possession of a pair of ankle boots.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest, as possession of ankle boots does not constitute an offense for former members of the armed forces. There is, however, a fear that Mr. Ndikuriyo's arrest is linked to his past as a former FAB member who is among the targeted victims of the current crisis in Burundi.

- On 3 August 2018 Bubanza intelligence chief arrested Jean Pierre Ndayambaje (Kabeba) and Marimbu (60 years) in village IV of Gihanga commune, Bubanza province (western part of the country). Relatives report that the two men are activists of the FNL opposition party faithful to MP Agathon Rwasa.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the head of SNR Bubanza did not communicate to relatives the reasons behind these arrests. He embarked them to Bujumbura city, without specifying where they will be detained. The fear is that both men are victims of their political affiliation.

### **3. Imbonerakure militiamen persecute citizens based on enforced contributions**

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes intensive and systematic harassment of the rural population in several communes of the country. Members of the imbonerakure militia who demand forced contributions for the 2020 elections carry out these persecutions.

Sos-Torture/Burundi learned that militiamen erected illegal roadblocks on all roads leading to the market in Bubanza commune and province (west of the country) on July 29, 2018. Witnesses report that the militia demanded that anyone surrendering to the market to present a receipt of payment of 2,000 francs for the elections.

Imbonerakure militiamen on the roads leading to the central market of the commune and province Makamba (south of the country) on July 27, 2018 carried out similar operations. No one was allowed to access the market without submitting his contribution receipt to these elections.

This is a violation of the movement and movement rights of the inhabitants. Households are facing increased poverty, and market access is a means of selling some field products and also buying daily necessities. The militia turned those who did not contribute back. The forced contributions required from the population also contribute to the impoverishment of households; because these contributions do not only concern the elections but also the construction of various administrative and sports buildings.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes the illegality surrounding these operations of imbonerakure militiamen who do not have the status of public officials, the

powerlessness of law enforcement officials and the fear that these pressures will escalate in the next weeks and months.

#### **4. A measure violating the right of girls to education abolished**

Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned of the decision of the Minister of Education of 27 July 2018 to suspend its previous decision to prohibit access to schoolgirls who are victims of unwanted pregnancies during their school years. This is a wise decision that now allows any girl who wants to return to school after an unwanted pregnancy. The previous ministerial order was a flagrant violation of this universal right to equitable access to education (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 133**: [http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SOS\\_Torture\\_Burundi\\_num% C3% A9ro\\_133.pdf](http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SOS_Torture_Burundi_num%20133.pdf)).

The annulment of this discriminatory decision allows those who were targeted to return to school as soon as September 2018 comes back to school.



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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, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform about the realities of the country followed a slaughter period of a hundred people killed during the days 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 the third term of President Nkurunziza namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Bujumbura City Council.

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