



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

REPORT No. 39 OF THE CAMPAIGN SOS-TORTURE /BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

In the report of SOS-Torture/Burundi of 3rd to 10th September 2016, the campaign talks about arbitrary arrests that continued to be conducted in some areas. Raids regularly carried out by the police also continued.

At least twenty-one persons (21) were arrested during operations carried out by police agents. For each operation, no warrant was delivered, much less the reason for the arrest. Among the victims of arbitrary arrests, SOS-Torture Campaign counted four (4) political detainees belonging to Front for National Liberation "FNL" party of the opposition. A hundred other people were arrested during police raids among others Musaga, although they end up being released after hours of illegal arrests.

Relating to assassinations, the report mentions four (4) people killed, including two victims thrown into a river after their execution.

The SOS-Torture/Country Burundi is also concerned about the nightly transfer of twenty detainees who left Mpimba Central prison of Bujumbura to two prisons in provinces without informing their families or lawyers

1. Arbitrary arrests, abductions and forced disappearances continue

- Police agents arrested a young man named Alberic Bigirimana in Mugamba commune, Bururi province (south of the country) on September 3rd, 2016. He is a student of the Agricultural Institute of Burundi "ITAB "Gisozi (located at the centre of the country in Mwaro Province).

No reason for the arrest was given by the police, which is a case of arbitrary arrest.

- National Intelligence Service Agents arrested Stany Mpawenayo and Rubagaza on 4th September 2016 in the Vumbi commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) No ground was advanced during the arrests. Relatives say the two men are activists of the National Liberation Front "FNL" opposition party led by AgathonRwasa, now Vice President of the National Assembly and are both residents of Marangara commune in Ngozi province (north of the country). A vehicle of the National Intelligence «SNR" Ngozi intercepted and boarded Mpawenayo.as of Mr. Rubagaza which is teacher and pastor, he was arrested in front of church faithful.

Witnesses report that the men were beaten repeatedly by local youth, identified as members of the militia 'Imbonerakure' of the ruling party CNDD-FDD. The militias often accompany police agents and the SNR during arbitrary arrest operations.

SNR agents have accused the two men of possessing weapons. The SOS-Torture / Country Burundi learned, however, that during the searches carried out at the homes of two men, no weapons or military object was found by these agents. The SOS-Torture Campaign/Burundi notes that the militants of the opposition pro-FNL Rwasa continues to be the target of arbitrary arrests which would definitely linked to their political beliefs.

- Military agents arrested four (4) young men in Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, and Bujumbura province on the evening of September 4th 2016. The young men in question are: Cyriaque Nitunga, Diomedes Nahayo, Jean de Dieu Sindayikengera and Alexandre Bazitunga. They are students on holidays waiting for the school year.

SOS-Torture Campaign/Burundi has learned that these young men were illegally arrested at 1:00 in the morning at their homes, without any warrant or reason to these arrests. The arrest of a person at 1:00 in the morning is not only a violation of the home in the eyes of the Burundian law, but also a security breach. They were held in the capital of the Mayuyu zone. They were released two days after (on September 6th, 2016); SOS-Torture/Burundi also deplore the forced ransom of students operated by the same soldiers. They had to pay no less than 30,000 Burundian francs each to be released.

- Police agents arrested two activists of the opposition pro-FNL Agathon Rwasa in the at Kiremba commune, Ngozi province (north of the country) on September 6th, 2016. The two men Nshimirimana Claver, local leader of Ciri hill located in Kiremba commune; and Eugene Ndarigenderako, a teacher of Ruhororo.

These arrests are again linked to the political views of the victims, during arrests; the communal administrator of Kiremba was present to conduct those operations.

- The Police arrested five people living in the Musaga zone (south of Bujumbura) on September 7th, 2016 between 1st and 2nd Avenue. This arrest was secondary to a raid carried out in all households in these two avenues early in the morning around 6:00 am. Witnesses report that a hundred persons were gathered on the grounds of a local church for selection.

The SOS-Torture/Burundi Campaign reports regularly raids conducted in the districts quarters known to be protesters of the 3rd term of the President of Burundi Pierre

Nkurunziza, especially Musaga zone. Police agents pretext the investigation about armed groups and weapons that could be dissimilated by civilian people, but these police officers take advantage of the moment to threaten and extort money from the person's victims of these raids operations quasi- weekly.

- Police agents arrested seven (7) men on Nyamugari hill, Nyagasasa zone, Mugamba commune in Bururi province (south of the country) on September 7th, 2016. Seven persons were at the home of one of them to share a local glass beer. Those arrested are: Privat, Hakizimana , Nzosaba, Jean Pierre, Kigingi, Julien and Buyoya

No reason was given during their arrests, nor warrant presented by the police who took them to the prison of the Mugamba commune. The SOS-Torture/Burundi denounces arbitrary arrests. The next day, agents from the National Intelligence Service have embedded three of them to the custody of the SNR in Bujumbura; the others being kept in Mugamba custody. The SNR accused them of participation in armed groups, but no evidence has been provided.

1. Murder, summary executions and armed attacks listed

- A group armed group shot dead two men in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province (west of Bujumbura) in the evening of September 4th, 2016. The victims are Amédée Niyorugira, who was an accountant in the office of Mpanda commune and CNDD party -FDD member and Innocent Busoni, who was one of the young leaders of the militia 'Imbonerakure' CNDD-FDD in Mpanda commune. The perpetrators have not been arrested to date.



M. Amédée Niyorugira, a victim killed

at Mpanda

- Two bodies, a man and a woman, were insights Rusizi River in Rusiga sector Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (west the country) on September 6th, 2016. The two victims have not been identified, nor the exact circumstances of their death. Only the human body has been recovered by the police, the vague carried the woman body before being shipped. The SOS-Torture Campaign / Burundi notes that this finding is similar to several other cases of summary executions where the victims were found in Mubarazi river at Muramvya province (see SOS-Torture report/Burundi 35: <http://sostortureburundi.over-blog.com/2016/08/sos-torture-burundi-n-35.html>), except that the two victims in Rusizi was not tied up arms behind their backs.



On of the victim shipped from Rusizi River

- A grenade thrown into a small shop seriously injured a young man named Rashid Nanali on Nyarunazi hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province (north) on September 7th, 2016. Perpetrators of the attack have not been identified.

2. Night Transfer of prisoners

The headquarter of penitential Affairs decided on transfer of twenty-five (25) inmates of Mpimba Central Prison (Bujumbura) to Gitega prisons (Central of the country) and Rumonge (south of the country) on 5th September 2016. A total of eleven (11) of these inmates in Gitega while fourteen (14) others in Rumonge.

The Campaign SOS-Torture/Burundi however denounces an illegal transfer, operated at night without urgent need that could not prevent these transfers to occur during the day in accordance with law and after having informed their families and lawyers. Concern is also related to the fact that the detainees are mostly activists of the opposition party, Movement for Solidarity and Development "MSD", arrested in March 2014 in clashes with the police who had used gas tear and weapons to enter the national headquarters of the party.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

The SOS-Torture Campaign/Burundi was initiated with the aim to inform national and international opinion on the serious violations of human rights ongoing in Burundi through monitoring reports including torture, arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions. This initiative of the realities of the country follows the slaughter of a hundred persons killed during the day of December 11th and that of December 12th, 2015 by the police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who came attacking military camps located on the outskirts of the capital City. The affected areas are said protesters of the third term of President Nkurunziza namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura.

SOS-TORTURE