

SOS -TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N ° 217 PUBLISHED ON 8 FEBRUARY 2020

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 1 to 8 February 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least one person was murdered in the town of Bujumbura during the period. The victim is a senior med student. Two (2) persons were abducted and forcibly disappeared in Cibitoke province.

Cases of arbitrary arrests are noted : at least eleven (11) cases are recorded and all concern members of the opposition CNL party. Nine (9) of these individuals reside in the province of Kirundo.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified persons murdered Jérôme Cishahayo whose body was found in a cornfield in Carama district, Kinama area, Ntakangwa commune (northern Bujumbura) on 2 February 2020. Relatives report that the victim was strangled after leaving a local bar the day before.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date. Mr. Cishahayo was in his final year of Medicine at the University of Burundi.



Mr. Cishahayo assassinated in the town of Bujumbura

- Men in police attire abducted two people on National Road 5 at rukana Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on 4 January 2020. Witnesses report that kidnapping victims were travelling along National Road 5 towards the Ruhwa border when they were intercepted and boarded in a vehicle.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an abduction and a risk to the safety of victims whose identity is not yet known.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police officers arrested Ladislav Niyongabo in the District of Iteba, Burambi commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) on 23 January 2020. Witnesses report that he was having a drink in a local bistro when a police officer accused him of insulting the head of State after Mr. Niyongabo declined the officer's request to buy him a drink.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the false accusations of a police officer to obtain the arrest of the victim. After his pre-trial detention, Mr. Niyongabo was sentenced to 2 years in

prison on 31 January 2020 by the Bururi Court of Appeal in a " flagrante delicto "trial. Sos-Torture/ Burundi also learned from relatives that Mr. Niyongabo is a judge at the Burambi residence Court. He is a victim of arbitrary detention and false charges.

- Police officers arrested Anatole Nzisabira on the Hill Buhororo 2, Commune and province Bubanza (west of the country) on 20 January 2020. Relatives report that Mr. Nzisabira is a member of the opposition CNL (National Congress for Freedom) Party. He is accused of undermining the internal security of the state after refusing to join the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest linked to the political affiliation of the victim. Mr. Nzisabira has received numerous applications to join the ruling party, which he declined and reportedly succeeded in enrolling former members of the ruling party in the CNL party, which would have led to his imprisonment. After a hearing on 4 February 2020 in the High Court of Bubanza to demand his release, Mr. Nzisabira awaits the decision of the judges.

- Members of the imbonerakure militia illegally arrested nine (9) people on the vyanzo Hill, in the Gatware zone, in Busoni commune, in the Northern Province of Kirundo on 31 January 2020. Relatives report that the arrested persons are activists of the opposition CNL party accused of having provided their identity card to their political representative for activities of their party, in this case becoming political proxies during the upcoming elections.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the arbitrary arrest of the following persons : Jacques Butoyi, Seleman Bizimana, Samuel Kavamahanga, Hassan Haberintwari, Abdul Rukundo, Moussa Musafiri, Gérard Mvunamaboko, Gilbert Ngendakumana and Malachi Rwaswa. The representative of the CNL party in the Gatware zone, Jacques Butoyi, is among those detained for having collected the identity cards of his colleagues.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on the serious human rights violations in Burundi through monitoring reports on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform on the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of December 11 and that of December 12, 2015 by police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital city.

The affected zones are said to be the protestors of the third term of President Nkurunziza, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Town Hall of Bujumbura.