

REPORT N°242 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 1 AUGUST 2020

This SOS-Torture report covers the period from 25 July to 1 August 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least fourteen (14) people were murdered during the period in different localities. Among the victims were a married couple and another person beheaded, two people were stabbed and four men in military uniforms of the Burundian army.

The report also states that two (2) persons were injured, including a member of the CNL party (Conseil National pour la Liberté) stabbed by an Imbonerakure who is currently under arrest

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- On 25 July 2020, Philbert Ntahimpera, a man in his sixties, was killed with a club by Nestor Nkurunziza on Jimbi locality in Gitega commune and province (central part of the country), while Jean Claude Bukeyenzeza, who was with the victim in a bar, was seriously injured.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that Nestor Nkurunziza was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment during a flagrante delicto trial in which he pleaded guilty.

- On Sunday 26/07/2020, a member of CNL Ruberintwari Emmanuel from Munyinya locality, Mukerwa zone in Busoni commune of Kirundo province (north of the country) died of assault and battery inflicted on him on 22/07/2020 by a group of imbonerakure composed of Nzojibwami, Chief of Mukerwa Locality an imbonerakure, Ntaryamira, Gasarwenda, Kavakure, Riyazimana and André who is a candidate in Mukerwa Locality elections. It should be noted that after being beaten, the victim tried to complain to the locality leader Biziragakuba Leopold, but was not received.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police today finally arrested the alleged perpetrators as well as the locality leader around 5 p.m., after some resistance from other imbonerakure. They are being held at Busoni commune shack for investigation.

- A man known as Shirambere (35 years old) died on Sunday 26/07/2020 after being stabbed around 9 p.m. by his father, Karenzo Juvenal on Kigaga locality,

Ntega zone and commune in Kirundo province. The local administration confirms the facts and confides that the victim was stabbed when she intervened to separate her parents who were fighting.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the perpetrator of this crime is on the run and that investigations are underway to apprehend him and bring him to justice.

- On Mugeru locality, Mishiha zone and commune in Cankuzo province (east of the country), Bukuru Simon was stabbed in the throat on the night of Sunday 26/07/2020 by his wife Nsekerabansi Emilienne who accused him of witchcraft

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the judicial police of Cankuzo has already arrested the criminal who was seriously beaten by the population that wanted to do justice

- A lifeless decomposing body of an unidentified man was discovered on Monday night 26/07/2020 on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Quarter 3 of Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that soldiers from a position close to this place in company with local administrative officials proceeded to bury him in haste without any investigation being carried out for his identification.

- Unidentified individuals decapitated the head of Prime Sindibagira on Kivuvu locality, Mutoyi zone, Bugendana commune in Gitega province on 27/07/2020. Mutoyi zone chief, Charles Nahishakiye, confided that the victim was allegedly murdered as a result of a land dispute.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that Bugendana police have arrested an alleged perpetrator who is being held in the communal police dungeon for investigation.

- Four lifeless bodies were discovered by passers-by on Myave locality in Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi) early in the morning of 29/07/2020, a few kilometres from Kibira nature reserve. The identity of the victims and the circumstances of their death remain unknown. According to witnesses, the decomposing bodies, who were lying in the same place, were wearing boots and military clothing of the Burundian army, with dry blood on their clothes.

An elected official from this locality regrets that this is the third time that lifeless bodies have been discovered in this locality, but that unfortunately there has never been any light on these killings.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the local administration ordered the burial of the bodies immediately after this discovery without even investigating to identify them in order to, it says, "protect the population from possible diseases".

- Séverin and Rose Ntakimazi living as a couple were killed and beheaded by unidentified criminals not far from their home on the night of Wednesday 29/07/2020. Their bodies were found in the morning of Thursday 30/07/2020 on Bushirambeho locality, Buhiga commune, Karusi province.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the motive for this double murder and its perpetrators are not yet known.

- A lifeless body of a named Cyriaque was found in a rice field in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province on Wednesday 29/07/2020. This man was living in Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province and his family claims that he had been missing since Saturday 25/07/2020. The cause of his death remains unknown.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police claim to have arrested three people including the wife and daughter of the victim for investigative reasons.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Birikunzira (68 years old), a night watchman at the modern market of Rugombo in Cibitoke province, whose body was discovered early in the morning of this Friday 31/07/2020 in a pool of blood in front of the kiosks near the market.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police in Rugombo have not yet identified any suspects to date

2. Violations of the right to physical Security

- On Mibanda locality, Kivyuka zone, Rumonge commune and province (south-western Burundi), a CNL activist named Nicimpaye Thérance was stabbed Wednesday 29/07/2020 by a young imbonerakure. The victim was evacuated to a health facility near Mibamba locality for treatment.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the alleged perpetrator was arrested by the judicial police and is being held in Rumonge dungeon for investigation.



SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on 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 provide information on the realities of the country followed the carnage of some 100 people killed on 11 and 12 December 2015 by the police and military officers under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps on the outskirts of the capital city.

The affected zones are said to be contesting President Nkurunziza's third term of office, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the centre of Bujumbura City Hall.

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