

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT No. 130 PUBLISHED ON 9 JUNE 2018

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period ranging between 2 and 9 June 2018 on cases of violations and human rights violations in Burundi.

Six (6) persons were murdered during that period in different parts of the country. Among the victims a couple and their baby, who were murdered with machetes in Muyinga (North of the country). A member of imbonerakure militiamen is also wanted for trying to assassinate an opposition sympathizer.

The report also mentions death threats against two (2) residents of Ruyigi province. These threats were sent through unsigned letters.

A young man disappeared since his kidnapping by agents of National Intelligence Service in Ngozi.

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

- Members of imbonerakure militiamen threaten to death Deus (son of Jerome Mbuzehose) of Mago hill, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country). Relatives report that the young man were escaping since the evening of June 2, 2018, after escaping an assassination attempt by a group of young people from imbonerakure militiamen. The militias accused him of threatening the people who voted in favor of the Constitution revision during the referendum of May 17, 2018.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a high risk for the safety of Mr. Deus, who was able to escape an assassination attempt but remains hunted by a group of militiamen imbonerakure. This young man reports being a victim of a designed plan to eliminate him for voting against the revision of the Constitution. The police did not open any investigation to identify the alleged perpetrators and protect the victim.

- Unidentified individuals threaten to death Gasongo on Muriza hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province (East of the country).

Relatives report that until June 3, 2018, at least eleven (11) unsigned letters were found at his home with explicit threats. The authors of these leaflets accuse Mr Gasongo of resorting to 'witchcraft', and ask him to put an end to it.

Sos-Torture / Burundi also learned the delivery of similar threatening letters to Mr. Karoye in the same locality. Witnesses report that seven (7) unsigned letters were filed in front of his house until June 4, 2018. The police did not open any investigation to identify the perpetrators of these death threats. The police must protect the persons concerned. Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes that several people were murdered after receiving such threats and the police having not put in place protective measures.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Etienne Nsavyimana, his wife and their child (a three-month baby) on Gitaramuka Hill, Gashoho Commune, Muyinga Province (North of the country) in the evening of 3 June 2018. Relatives report that the couple and their baby were returning home when they were arrested and murdered.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police announced the arrest of four (4) suspects, including two (2) brothers of the decimated head of household.

- An individual attempted to kill with a spear Vianney Ndimubakunzi on Rukana Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) in the evening of June 5, 2018. Relatives report that the victim was arrested on her way home by a group of imbonerakure militiamen before one of the militiamen stabbed him. Mr. Ndimubakunzi identified one of his attackers as Paci Bitangimana. Relatives also report that the victim is a member of Amizero y'Abarundi opposition coalition, and has been repeatedly threatened to reprisals by members of the ruling party CNDD-FDD if he does not leave the opposition.

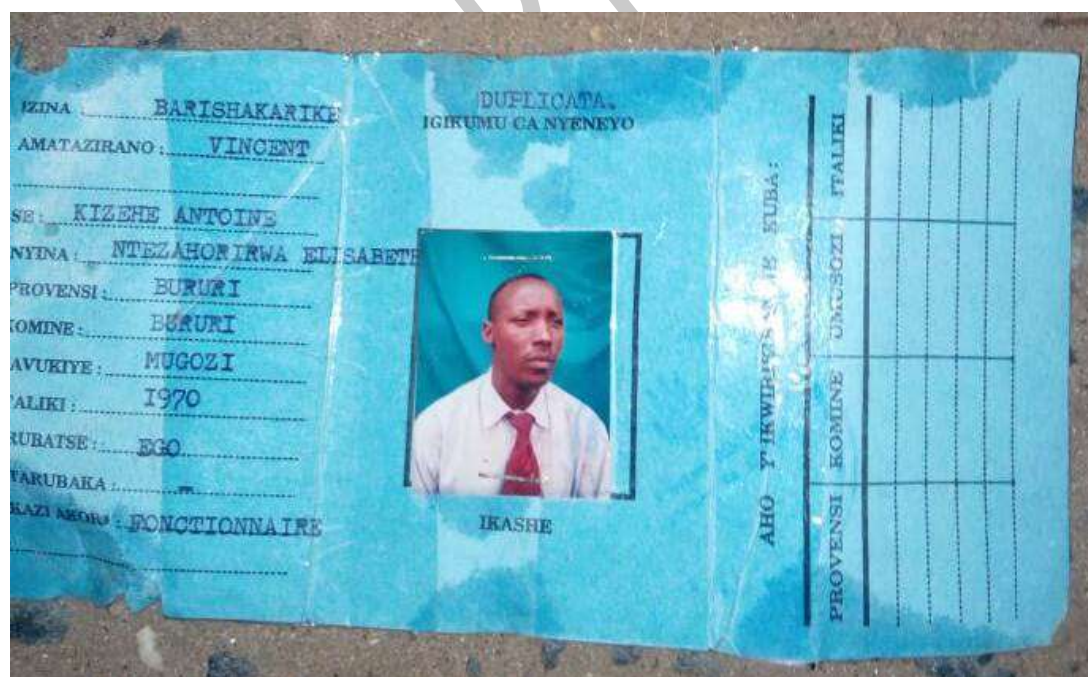
SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not arrest any suspects among the attackers, but issued a search warrant for the suspect identified by the victim.

- Unidentified individuals murdered with machetes Alexis Niyonzima (28 years old) on Nyakage Hill, Ruziba zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) in the evening of June 6, 2018. Relatives report that the victim was ambushed not far from his home.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police announced the arrest of three (3) suspects, but did not disclose their identities. Relatives say that Mr. Niyonzima had received death threats before but did not receive any protection.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Vincent Barishakarike (48) on Buconyori Avenue between quarter IV and VI of Ngagara Zone, Ntahangwa Commune (North of Bujumbura City) in the evening of June 7, 2018. Witnesses report that men presenting themselves as clients hailed the victim (a taxi driver). They talked to the driver, before shooting him with a pistol.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not yet identified any suspects, nor determine the motives behind the assassination. The victim is a retired soldier from the former Burundian Armed Forces (ex-FAB). Relatives report that he worked as a driver assigned to the presidency of the Republic before his retirement. Several members of Burundian security forces from FAB have been murdered, disappeared, tortured and arbitrarily detained since the beginning of the crisis in April 2015.



The complete identity of the victim killed in Ngagara

- Individuals murdered Ryarahiye on Kagege Hill, Busoni Commune, Kirundo Province (North of the country) in the evening of June 7, 2018. Relatives report that the victim was beheaded a few meters from his home. The murdered man

was a member of imbonerakure militiaman of the ruling party CNDD-FDD, and was conducting night patrols with other militiamen in the locality.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also learned that the victim was in bad terms with other militiamen in his group, following misunderstandings related to the sharing of goods from the racket of the population of the Kagege zone during these night patrols. The police apprehended a young man named Charles as the main suspect. He is a member of imbonerakure militiamen and still holds traces of fresh blood a few hours after the murder of the victim.

2. Atteintes du droit à la liberté et à la sécurité physique

- National Intelligence Service agents arrested Thaddée Nduwimana in Vyerwa zone, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province, (north of the country) on May 31, 2018. Witnesses report that members of imbonerakure militiamen supported SNR agents during his arrest.

Sos-Torture/Burundi, however, notes that SNR did not disclose the location or reasons behind Mr. Nduwimana's detention. Relatives report that they have no signs of him, which accentuates the fear of forced disappearance of the victim.

- Members of Imbonerakure militiamen tortured Placide Ntikazokura on Gikwiye Hill, Butaganzwa Commune, Ruyigi Province (East of the country) on June 4, 2018. Witnesses reported that militiamen beat him repeatedly in a local bistro where the victim was having a drink. They accused Mr. Ntikazokura of voting for the "no" during the referendum of May 17, 2018.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of the attack on Mr. Ntikazokura, who was seriously injured by beatings. The Police did not open any investigation to identify and arrest the perpetrators.



SOS-Torture/Burundi campaign 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 and arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform about the realities of the country followed a slaughter of a hundred people killed during the day of December 11 and 12, 2015 by 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 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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