

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N ° 135 PUBLISHED ON 14 JULY 2018

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period ranging between 7 to 14 July 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi. At least four (4) persons were murdered during the period in different locations. Among the victims is a child murdered during a grenade attack on his parents' home. Two (2) other grenade attacks are recorded during this period. In addition to the murdered victims, these attacks left eleven (11) wounded.

The report also notes four (4) cases of arbitrary arrests including a man arrested on Makamba governor's order. Cibitoke chief intelligence manager also ordered the arrest and beating of two (2) men on the request of members of imbonerakure militiamen.

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

- In the evening of July 6, 2018, unidentified armed individuals murdered Jean Berchmans Nzirumbanje (51 years) on Mwenya hill, commune and Kirundo province (northern part of the country). Witnesses report that the victim was shot dead at a local bar, and his companion Kayizera was seriously injured.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the Kirundo police have announced the arrest of two (2) suspects: Emmanuel and Kibwa, who allegedly addressed death threats against Mr. Nzirumbanje.

- In the evening of 8 July 2018, on Nyagaseke Hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) unidentified individuals murdered Melchior Bayiremye (70 years). Relatives report that the victim was wounded by machetes.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not yet identified any suspects.

- In the evening of 9 July 2018 on Nyaminazi hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country), unidentified individuals attacked the house of Jean Bizimana. Witnesses report that one of the children in the



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house was killed, and nine (9) other occupants of the house were injured, including the parents of the little child who died.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an upsurge granate attacks targeting households. Victims are often young children and parents. The Police have not yet identified any suspects.

- In the evening of 9 July 2018, unidentified armed individuals shot and killed Enureck Hakizimana in the center of Kayogoro commune, Makamba province (southern Rwanda). Witnesses report that he had received several threats related to land disputes whose cases were pending in court.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Kayogoro police announced the arrest of four (4) suspects following this assassination: Pacifique Niyongabo, Claude, Anaclet and Ildefonse without specifying their proof of involvement.

- In the evening of 10 July 2018 one (or more) individual (s) threw a grenade into the Iteba quarter, in the center of Rumonge commune and province (south-west of the country). Witnesses report that a man was seriously injured during the attack.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes that the police have not identified or arrested any suspects to date.

- On 11 July 2018, unidentified armed individuals attempted to kill Nkunzimana in the center of Nyagasasa zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province (southern part of the country). The target was a young imbonerakure militiamen member of the ruling party CNDD-FDD, who narrowly escaped the assassination attempt.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not yet identified any suspect of the attack. Local witnesses report that Nkunzimana was involved in the crackdown targeting other young people in the area who refused to join the ruling party CNDD-FDD.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- On July 7, 2018 Imbonerakure militia youth arrested Pierre Ndinduruvugo on Rusengo hill, Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province (north of the country). Relatives report that he is an elected member of the opposition party FNL (National Front for the Liberation) faithful of MP Agathon Rwasa, accused by militiamen to insult them.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an unlawful arrest operated by members of the ruling party, as well as the complicity of the police agents who put Mr Ndinduruvugo in jail without any warrant and without legal grounds for arrest.

- On July 11, 2018 Cibitoke provincial chief intelligence arrested Tharcisse Cigezeho and Fabrice Ndungutse on Cunyu Hill, Buganda Commune, Cibitoke Province, north-west of the country. Witnesses report that the two (2) Young men were beaten by Venant Miburo (head of Cibitoke National Intelligence Service) in complicity with members of imbonerakure militiamen. MM. Cigezeho and Ndungutse were then tied up and taken by the SNR officer to the cell.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence used during these arbitrary arrests. The two (2) youths are accused of insulting state authorities, following accusations against them by members of imbonerakure militiamen. Relatives report that the two young men are victims of belonging to the opposition coalition Amizero y'Abarundi.

On July 12, 2018 Makamba governor Gad Niyukuri ordered the arrest of Evariste Mbonihankuye in the center of Makamba commune and province (south of the country). Relatives report that the governor intervened in a land dispute case between M Mbonihankuye to another resident of the locality, demanding the arrest without warrant of this man.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes an abuse of power by the governor of Makamba who ordered an arbitrary arrest, as well as the complicit silence of Makamba police and prosecution service that left Mr. Mbonihankuye in detention.



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 the slaughter of a hundred people killed during the day of December 11 and 12, 2015 by the police and military on the pretext of pursuing rebels who came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital city.

The affected zone are said to be contesting President Nkurunziza's third term namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Bujumbura City Council.

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