

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT No. 142 PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period between 25 August and 1 September 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) persons were murdered during the period. The report also points to an attempt assassination targeting a family of Rugombo commune in Cibitoke.

A woman and a girl aged 3 years 4 months were sexually assaulted.

Cases of arbitrary arrests reported in several localities of the country : several activists of FNL opposition party faithful to MP Agathon Rwasa are victims of arbitrary detention in Kirundo. Some have been in police cells for a week, others have been detained for over a month in deplorable conditions.

The report also mentions the kidnapping and beating of three (3) journalists during a report in the north of Bujumbura city. The perpetrators are police agents.

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

- Unidentified individuals sexually assaulted G¹. on Kiziba Hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province (West of the country), on August 22, 2018. The victim reports having been raped by two (2) men. She was evacuated for emergency care.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that police have not identified a suspect so far

- A little girl I.D ²(3 years 4 months) was raped on Matyazo Hill, Gishiha Zone, Vugizo Commune, Makamba Province (South of the country) on 23 August 2018. Witnesses report that the victim was taken to Makamba Hospital for treatment.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have announced the arrest of Emery Niyomwungere (11 years old) as the main suspect.

¹G : Anonymous for the victim

² I.D : Anonymous for the victim

- Individuals murdered Nimpagaritse Zéla on Rabiro hill, Vugizo commune, Makamba province (south of the country) on August 24, 2018. Relatives report that the victim was found slaughtered in his home.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have announced the arrest of three suspects.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Marc Nkuzimana (70 years) on Rushanga hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province (center of the country) on 25 August 2018. Relatives reported that the victim was beaten several times.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Bugendana police have announced the arrest of two persons suspected that day.

- A group armed with machetes and knives attempted to eliminate members of a family in their home on Mparambo Hill II, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on August 26, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the perpetrators stabbed a child on the arm and chest, as well as family-owned livestock.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Rugombo police have announced the arrest of a suspect. The Police also reported earlier death threats against the family, as well as a first grenade-related assassination attempt in 2017.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Charlotte whose body was found at her home on Nkondo sub-Hill, Nyabitsinda Hill and Commune, Ruyigi Province (East) on August 26, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the victim was beaten several times by the body and then hanged in her house by her murderers.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Nyabitsinda police announced the arrest of four (4) suspects, including two (2) sons of the victim; but did not confirm the likely indices of their involvement.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Ntaconsanze, Ryumugabe, Niyukuri and Barengayabo on Gihome hill, Muhendo zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) on 25 August 2018. Relatives report that these four men were sequestered at their home by members of imbonerakure militiamen who accompanied police agents. The militiamen fired them from their homes, then beat them up in the presence of several witnesses and police agents who came to arrest them.

Relatives also report that the victims are all activists of FNL opposition party close to MP Agathon Rwasa.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a violent aggression carried out by militiamen of the ruling party CNDD-FDD, under the complicit eye of police agents. None of the perpetrators have been arrested so far, although relatives and victims have identified the leaders of the militiamen present that day: it is a given Alphonse Ntereke and Jean Marie Mugumyankiko. The four opposition activists are being held in Ntega Police Station, with no charges over them to this day.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes the police and judicial misunderstanding to which members of the opposition FNL party are victims.

Five (5) other militants of this party, have been in custody for more than one month in the Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo Province. Not only are they improperly retained but also in violation of the procedure especially that the length of custody cannot in any way exceed two (2) weeks. They are Aboubakar Ahishakiye, Majidi, Juma, Niyonkuru and Déo Rucahobatinya on Bugorora hill on July 26, 2018 (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report N ° 138** : <http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/SOS-Torture-Burundi-num%C3%A9ro-138.pdf>).

- Police agents arrested, kidnapped and beaten Alain Majesté Barenga, Bella Gloria Akimana and Alain Niyomucamanza in Ward 10, Ngagara Zone, Ntangwa Commune (north of Bujumbura City) on 27 th August, 2018. Relatives report that the three victims are journalists of Culture Radio abused while they carried out a report.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of beatings inflicted by police agents, of which none of the perpetrators has been apprehended so far. Witnesses report that the victims were saved by local residents who intervened. This serious attack on journalists is a new attack on freedom of expression and the press.

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2015, journalists have been the victims of several attacks related to their work : burned radio and television stations, a hundred independent media journalists forced into exile as well as constant harassment aimed at journalists remained in Burundi.

- Police agents arrested Donatien Ntakarutimana on Bisaka hill, Burambi commune, Rumonge province (south-west of the country) on August 30, 2018. Relatives report that he is a member of FNL opposition party faithful MP Agathon Rwasa. The police accused him of illegal possession of firearms, although no weapons were seized from his home.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Mr. Ntakarutimana would rather be the victim of his political convictions, particularly his participation in the referendum campaign of May 2018 for the vote in favor of the rejection of the draft revision of the Constitution. This is an arbitrary arrest.

- Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen beat Mr. Augustin Ndamukunda on Kiyange hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province (South of the country) on August 31, 2018. Witnesses report that Mr. Augustin was arrested on the order of Mr. Sept Minani who is also elected Kiyange Hill. Witnesses also report that Mr. Augustin was on a field visit in the defense of his client in conflict with the same hill chief.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of aggression of which the author is an administrative at the local level. Makamba police have not arrested the author of the blows so far.

3. A victim of arbitrary arrest released on the decision of the judges

Sos-Torture/Burundi learned about Mukaza High Court decision (center of Bujumbura city) ordering the release of Bernard Mpubusa (70 years) on August 27, 2018. Mr. Mpubusa appeared on August 22, 2018 in a state of very critical health following the refusal of the prison authorities to refuse treatments. He was arrested on 6 August 2018 in Buringa, Gihanga Commune, Bubanza Province (western part of the country) where he went to supervise the rearing of his flock; and accused of undermining the internal security of the State and participation in armed gangs (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report N°141**: [http://sostortureburundi.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/08/SOS_Torture_Burundi_N_141 .pdf](http://sostortureburundi.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/08/SOS_Torture_Burundi_N_141.pdf)).

Sos-Torture/Burundi also notes Mr. Mpubusa's late hospitalization after his appearance. Those arrested in Buringa with Mr. Mpubusa remain in detention, although judges have found that the prosecution case is empty.

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 11 and 12 December, 2015 by the police and military on the pretext of pursuing rebels who came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected zones 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.