



SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT No. 143 PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period between 1and 8th September 2018 on human rights violations cases in Burundi.

At least five (5) persons were murdered during the period,among them a young man beaten to death by imbonerakure militiamen. They tried to hide the victim's body, which was only discovered eleven (11) days after the assassination. Two other victims have never been identified. Local administrative authorities and police ordered the burial of these victims in a hurry manner to avoid possible identification.

The report also notes the killing of a police agent by soldiers, while policemen tried to prevent soldiers from carrying out illegal arrests.

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

- On August 23, 2018 in the evening, Members of the Imbonerakure militiamen murdered Regis Niyungeko on Gasanda hill, Ruyigi commune and province (East of the country). Relatives report that the victim and his friend were intercepted by a group of militiamen, who then beaten them violently with iron bars. The victim's friend was able to escape with wounds to the arms, but imbonerakure militiamen executed Regis Niyungeko whose body was found on September 3, 2018 in decomposition.

Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned from relatives that Mr. Niyungeko's family have repeatedly gone to the police to request the victim to be returned after learning that he was beaten. False reports were also given to the family, suggesting that Niyungeko had fled to Tanzania after the caning. Relatives also report that Mr. Niyungeko's friend received death threats from Gasanda chief quarter, who ordered him not to testify about what happened.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the complicity of police agents who have not conducted any search to find the victim, nor arrest the perpetrators of fatal blows. As a local administrator, Gasanda chief quarter is also responsible for obstructing justice by trying to silence a witness. The body of Mr. Regis



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Niyungeko was discovered by residents of Gasanda Hill in a woods several days after his assassination.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not arrested any of the alleged perpetrators to date.

- Unidentified individuals murdered André Rwazanyingata during a grenade attack at his home on Musenyi Hill, Tangara Commune, Ngozi Province (north of the country) on August 30, 2018 in the evening. Relatives report that the victim's wife was seriously injured.

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

- Unidentified armed individuals attacked Muremera quarter, Ngozi commune and province (northern of the country) on 2 September 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the attackers injured Elvis Hatungimana and his wife Bizimungu Ladouce, a couple with a point of sale in Muremera, a district where several small pubs are concentrated.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police arrested about 20 persons the day after the attack, but did not specify their possible involvement in it. They were released and police announced the arrest of seven (7) others suspected of involvement in the attack.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was found decomposing on Nunga Hill, Nganji Hill, Rusengo Zone, Commune and Ruyigi Province (East of the country) on 3 September 2018. Witnesses report that the victim was beheaded, and the head placed close to the body by his executioners.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the judicial police officer came to ascertain the facts ordered the burial of the victim, without it being identified. The crime zone, like most rural hills, is controlled at night by members of the imbonerakure militia who conduct patrols. To date, the victim has still not been identified, nor the alleged perpetrators.

- Sos-Torture/Burundi learned of the early burial of a man whose body was left by unknown persons at Makamba hospital mortuary (south of the country) on September 4, 2018. The order of the burial was given by the Makamba communal

administration. Witnesses reported, however, that the administrative officials were mistaken person, and buried instead Jacques Ndayisaba whose body was also resting at the mortuary.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Mr. Ndayisaba's body was dug up for delivery to his family. The victim anonymously deposited at the mortuary, however, remains unidentified to this day, and was in turn buried by order of the administration. It could be a victim of kidnapping and extrajudicial execution.

- Soldiers shot and killed one policeman and seriously injured another on Kivumu Hill, Mugamba Commune, Bururi Province, south of the country, on September 5, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the soldiers arrived at Kivumu from their barracks in Muyange Muramba zone, Mugamba commune to arrest young people who are not members of the ruling party CNDD-FDD. They were accompanied by a group of imbonerakure militiamen. The military and militiamen gathered people and started beating them. Witnesses report that it was by wanting to intervene, believing in an attack, that Kavumu police chief was shot dead by military.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the violent attitude of the soldiers -Muyange barracks, who beat up peaceful inhabitants and shot dead a police agent in service. None of the soldiers present that night have been arrested so far. Mugamba residents have suffered greatly from repression, following their participation in peaceful protests against President Nkurunziza's third term in 2015.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Young members of imbonerakure militiamen assaulted and beat up Paul Ndinzemeshi and Bonne annee Miburo on Nyabubuye Hill, Ngoma Zone, Murwi Commune, Cibitoke Province (north-west of the country) on 6 September 2018 in the evening. Relatives report that the victims were intercepted by militiamen carrying out night patrols, who beat them and forbade them to drive in the evenings and at night.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the perpetrators were not prosecuted, although the families of the victims complained to the police. Police agents act in



complicity with imbonerakure militiamen. The relatives also report that the two beaten men are FNL opposition party activists faithful to MPAgathon Rwasa.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about serious human rights violations underway 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 city

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