



SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N °133 PUBLISHED ON JUNE 30, 2018

This report of Sos-Torture/Burundi covers the period ranging between 23 and 30 June 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least eight (8) persons were murdered during the period in different locations, and seven (7) were injured in armed attacks. Victims included an under two years small child killed by a grenade, and a detainee shot with five (5) bullets after he had been arrested in attempt escape.

The report also notes six (6) cases of arbitrary arrests including four (4) teachers from Ryansoro (Gitega) who had warned the police of threats to their safety. A syndicated union leader for the Burundian Airport Management Corporation (SOBUGEA) is also being held in an unknown location after his arrest in Bujumbura.

SOS-Torture/Burundi is also concerned about a violation of the right to education of girls, through a decision of the Minister of Education to prohibit access to the formal school system in case of pregnancy or marriage constraint.

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

- Individuals armed with guns attacked and seriously injured Melance Bavumiragiye on Nyamigina hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country) in the evening of 23 June 2018. Relatives report that the victim was traveling by motorcycle towards the market of the neighboring commune of Gisuru. Local witnesses reported that the area is controlled by imbonerakure youth militiamen, who regularly conduct targeted attacks on local merchants to steal them.

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

- Unidentified individuals murdered Libérat Ntirandekura on Kabwira Hill, Bugenyuzi Commune, Karusi Province (Central-East) in the evening of 24 June 2018. Relatives report that the victim was beaten with clubs at his home.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police announced the arrest of two suspects, but did not disclose their identities.

- Policemen shot and killed Severin Bwahuro near Ruyigi Prison (East of the country) in the evening on June 24, 2018. Witnesses report that he is a prisoner who escaped during the day. He was caught near Ruyigi market by members of imbonerakure militiamen and policemen who beat him. The prisoner Bwahuro was later taken to one of Ruyigi Prison's surveillance posts where he was shot five (5) bullets.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an extrajudicial execution of an unarmed prisoner, who posed no threat to security; having been detained again by policemen after his escape attempt. No investigation has been opened to determine the circumstances of this execution and to identify the agents responsible for this assassination.

- Unidentified individuals attacked the home of Pierre Gasabira on Yaranda hill, Kirundo commune and province (north of the country) in the evening of June 25, 2018,. Witnesses report that the attackers threw a grenade through the window of the owners' room, causing the death of their one and half year child and seriously injured Pierre Gasabira and his wife Girukwishaka.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police announced the arrest of two suspects from the same family as Mr Gasabira, but did not disclose their identities.

- Unidentified individuals shot dead Jean Pierre Mumputu in the center of Muyinga commune, Muyinga province (north of the country) near his home in the evening of June 26, 2018. The victim was a member of the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock (DPAE) in Muyinga. Relatives report that Mr. Mumputu was killed by three bullets and succumbed to his arrival at Muyinga Hospital.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that police have not identified any suspects of this assassination so far.



Mr. Jean Pierre Mumputu, shot near his home

- Unidentified individuals attacked residents on Nyakazi Hill, Kibago Commune, Makamba Province (South of the country) in the evening of June 28, 2018. Witnesses report that the group armed with machetes and a pistol injured three (3) persons: Elias Sago (representative of CNDD-FDD ruling party on Nyakazi Hill), Eric nicknamed Nzobe and a teacher of Nyakazi II basic school.

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

- Uncleared murders continue to grow in the southeastern part of the country, particularly in Rutana. NTAMWISHIMIRO Donatien, head of the National Commission of Lands and Other Property (CNTB), was found agonizing on the roadside on Gakobe Hill, Rutana Commune, Rutana Province (South-East of the country) in the evening of June 28 2018 . He died the next day at Rutana hospital. Mr. Donatien was also Rutana zone chief and deputy provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD ruling party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that no steps have been taken to identify the circumstances of his death.

- Individuals threw a grenade at Ngarama Hill, Kayero Zone, Mpinga Kayove Commune, Rutana Province (Southeast of the country) on the evening of June 28, 2018. The grenade injures a certain Bukuru. He was later transferred to Gitega Regional Hospital (center of the country) for coordinated health care.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that so far the police have not been able to determine the perpetrators and motives behind these acts.

- Unidentified individuals murdered three (3) men whose decomposing bodies were found on Nyagumba Hill, Bukinanyana Commune, Cibitoke Province (north-west of the country) on June 29, 2018. Witnesses report that victims were tied up, sign of a summary execution.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the decision of the local administration to order a hasty burial of the bodies, without prior identification of the victims and to determine the circumstances of their deaths.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police agents arrested Pierre Claver Havyarimana in the center of Mabanda Makamba Commune and province (south of the country) on June 27, 2018. Relatives reported that he is an evangelist of the Pentecost Church, who would be the victim of an internal conflict within their church. Mr. Havyarimana was arrested on the order of Makamba Prosecution service.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Makamba prosecution service has not disclosed the reasons for this arrest.

- Police agents arrested Fulgence Bizimana, Jean Bosco Butoyi, Prosper Nshirimbere and Emile Niyomwungere in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province (center of the country) on June 28, 2018. They are teachers of Ryansoro communal high school, arrested by the order of Ryansoro municipal administrator. Relatives report that the four teachers are victims of having denounced the mismanagement of the school's property.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not communicate the reasons for these arrests. The four teachers, however, had asked Ryansoro police for protection, through a letter explaining the fears for their safety. The police acted on the orders of the communal administrator, ignoring the call of the teachers.

Kilima le 24/6/2018

REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI
 MINISTERE DE L'EDUCATION,
 DE LA FORMATION TECHNIQUE ET
 PROFESSIONNELLE
 BP 2 GITEGA
 BOE RYANSORO
 BP 20 KIBAYA - KIGALI

Vu le 18/06/2018
 CC

A Monsieur le Commissaire
 de police à Ryansoro

Objet: demande de sécurité

Monsieur le Commissaire,

Nous, enseignants au lycée Communal de Ryansoro avons l'honneur de vous adresser au près de votre autorité pour demander d'être sécurisés.

En effet Monsieur le Commissaire

- les les actes d'intimidation, de séquestration, d'ignominie, de destruction et de déshonneur infligés, scandés incessamment par l'Administration Communal de Ryansoro;
- les les Conculutions répétitives entre le Directeur de l'école et l'Administration Communal;
- les que la prefecture de Kibaya a été informée par voie téléphonique que ces enseignants ont frappé l'Administration Communal; ainsi que ceci n'a pas eu lieu;
- de que des Correspondances ont été adressées aux différents directeurs de l'éducation pour qu'ils constatent qu'il y avait entre notre école et ces agissements de l'Administration Communal, nous avons plus que certains d'entre nous risquaient d'être arbitrairement emprisonnés de nous perdre la vie. Pour cela nous vous demandons de nous protéger.

Esperant une issue favorable à notre requête, veuillez agréer Monsieur le Commissaire Communal, l'expression de nos sentiments respectueux.

T.E.P.I = :

- Monsieur le chef de zone Ntanga
- Monsieur le Président du Conseil Communal de Ryansoro
- Monsieur le Commissaire Provincial de police à Gitega
- Monsieur le Gouverneur de la Province de Kibaya

. Liste des signatures:

- Felicien BIZIMANA
- Jean Bosco BUTSIRA
- Prosper NDIRIMBERE
- Emile NDIRIMBERE

The letter from the four Ryansoro teachers asking for police protection was written the day before their arrest.

- Police agents arrested Amissi Hakizimana at Cibitoke zone 4th avenue, Ntakangwa commune (north of Bujumbura city) on June 29, 2018. Mr. Hakizimana is the Trade union leader of SOBUGEA (Burundian company for warehouse management and ground handling) whose staff have been in conflict

with management for several weeks. Witnesses report that Mr. Hakizimana was embarked by several policemen without warrant, who did not communicate his destination.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Mr. Hakizimana had already been threatened with his trade union stance, and was hiding for fear of his safety. The police must indicate the place of detention of the trade union leader and the reasons for his arrest, especially as the right to organize is recognized by the Burundian labor code.



Mr. Amissi Hakizimana, embarked by police agents to an unknown location

3. The Ministry of Education violates girls' right to education

Sos-Torture/Burundi learned about the decision of the Minister of Education to ban access to the public and private education system, girls who will have pregnancies during their schooling, as well as boys who would be fathers of children born to these young students.

The decision is contained in a correspondence concerning the fraud of school documents. Pregnancy, which is generally unwanted for young students, is not a case of academic fraud. Point 3 of the Minister's correspondence states that:

"Any girl who has been a victim of pregnancy or coercion to a marriage being at the basic or post-basic level, as well as a boy who has a pregnancy, are not entitled to return to the formal public or private education system. However, they are all allowed to attend or follow vocational training".

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes a violation of the right to education of young girls in particular. In this correspondence, the Minister recognizes the character of "victim" of pregnancy and "constraint" to marriage, but nevertheless decides to punish girls. The correspondence does not mention cases of victims of rape in schools and the consequences for their educational progress.

Sos-Torture/Burundi calls on Education Minister Janvière Ndirahisha to suspend point 3 of these decisions.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

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, forced 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 with the pretext of pursuing rebel groups, which came to attack military camps on the outskirts of the capital city.

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.

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