

REPORT No. 131 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED JUNE 16, 2018

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period between 9 and 16 June 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least four (4) persons were murdered during the period in different localities, and the body of a fifth person was discovered without establishment of his death circumstances. Among the victims are a child and a woman killed during grenade attacks in Cibitoke and Gitega. A police agent was also killed in Nyakabiga of Bujumbura city.

The report mentions forced disappearance of two (2) men in Gihanga, Bubanza province. Attackers shot at them before embarking them in a vehicle.

Several cases of illegal arrests and torture of members of the opposition Amizero y'Abarundi coalition are also mentioned. At least six (6) members of the opposition were victims, three (3) of them had to be hospitalized because of beatings.

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

- The body of Arthemon Ndikuriyo (41 years) was found on Runanira Hill, in the urban center of Kirundo commune and province (north of the country) on June 10, 2018. Witnesses report that Mr. Ndikuriyo was seen for the last time the day before the celebration of the victory of the ruling party CNDD-FDD to the referendum vote of May 17, 2018.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not yet determined the causes of Mr. Ndikuriyo death, who was a member of CNDD-FDD party's imbonerakure militiaman and at the same time a teacher at Kavomo Basic School in Kirundo.

- Unidentified individual (s) murdered Esther Kubwimana (30 years) whose body was discovered on Mparambo Hill II, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country) on 9 June 2018 in the evening. Relatives report that the young woman did not carry any trace on the body indicating an injury.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police announced the arrest of the victim's husband, Désiré Ntaconayigize, but did not specify whether he is charged with

the crime. The circumstances of Ms. Kubwimana's murder are also unknown to date.

- Unidentified individuals attacked the small center of Rutonde on Birohe hill, Gitega commune and province (center of the country) with grenade on June 10, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that a woman died on the spot and twenty-four (24) other victims were injured during the attack.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspect of the attack so far.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Gideon Nzambimana whose body was found in a dump in Nyakabiga zone, Mukaza commune (downtown Bujumbura) on June 11, 2018. Witnesses report that the victim is a police agent assigned to Bujumbura police commissariat. The perpetrators left wounds on his head and wrapped his body in a bag. The dump seems to have served as the place of discharge of the body, the victim having been executed in another place.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date, nor determined the circumstances of the assassination of this security service member.

- Unidentified individuals attacked a family's home on Murwi Hill, Murwi Commune, Cibitoke Province, northwest of the country, on June 12, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that a six-year-old girl died as a result of the attack, and her parents and four (4) brothers and sisters were seriously injured by the grenade splinters.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified any suspects to date. The attacked family had been threatened for a few days, and accused of "witchcraft". Several person have been victims of similar attacks after being threatened for the same reasons. In Ruyigi province (eastern part of the country), concerned people received unsigned letters warning them of their elimination if they continued their practices of "witchcraft" (cf. report **Sos-Torture Burundi N ° 130**: <http://sostortureburundi.over-blog.com/2018/06/rapport-n-130-de-sos-torture/burundi-publie-le-9-juin-2018.html>).

- Unidentified individuals attacked and abducted Etienne Nkunuzimana and Sébastien Ndagijimana from Gihanga commune, Bubanza province (west of the country) near the road connecting the city of Bujumbura to Cibitoke province on June 13, 2018. Witnesses report that the attackers shot at the victims, before boarding them in a pickup truck without plate number tinted windows being wounded. MM. Nkunuzimana and Ndagijimana are members of opposition party FNL of MP Agathon Rwasa.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not yet opened any investigation to find the disappeared. Victims risk an execution, in view of their forced disappearance and the accomplice silence of Gihanga police to find them.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- On June 8, 2018, members of imbonerakure militiamen arrested Justin Bigirimana on Kiramira hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (north-west of the country). This is a member of the Amizero opposition coalition Abarundi that the militia accused of disrupting public order.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes an unlawful arrest by unauthorized persons to make such arrests, and the complicity of the police who subsequently imprisoned Mr. Bigirimana at Cibitoke police station.

- Members of Imbonerakure militiamen arrested and tortured Therence Baranyimba on Nyabitsinda hill Ruyigi commune and province (East of the country) on June 8, 2018. Witnesses report that the zone chief named Gahoza led militiamen. Mr. Baranyimba was later beaten several times by militiamen, who left him dying, and accused him of communicating with his detained relatives in prison.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the violence of imbonerakure militiamen towards the victim. Mr. Baranyimba was left dying and the police have not yet arrested any of the torturers, despite the identification of one of the attackers.

- A national intelligence agent arrested Wilson Niyonkuru and Ndayemeje on Kiramira hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on June 10, 2018. Relatives report that the two men are members of the

opposition Amizero y'Abarundi coalition and residents respectively on Kiramira hill in Rugombo and on Gitenge hill in Murwi commune. They were arrested by an agent named Lenine, who also works as a driver at SOBUGEA (Burundian warehouse management and ground handling company) at Bujumbura airport and boasts with the people of belonging to CNDD-FDD party.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes an arbitrary arrest of two (2) members of the opposition that this SNR agent and member of imbonerakure militiamen accuses of having mobilized the population, during the referendum campaign of May, to vote "No" to the revision of the Constitution. He also accuses them of collecting food for rebel groups. The two (2) men were embarked in the service vehicle of tCibitoke province police commissioner. These two arrests denote the continued repression of opponents of the change in the Constitution, while the new Constitution has already been promulgated.

Witnesses also report that this agent Lenin as well as Kiramira chief of zone, gathered the inhabitants of this hill on June 12, 2018 to threaten them to join CNDD-FDD if they do not want to undergo the same reprisals that members of the 'opposition suffered.



Lenine, SNR agent and SOBUGEA employee who terrorizes the inhabitants of Kiramira Hill and leads arrests of political opponents

- Members of the imbonerakure militiamen beat and wounded Francine Ndorimana and her mother Véronique Ntamavukiro in the Kizuka area, commune and province Rumonge (south-west of the country) on June 11, 2018 in the evening. Relatives report that the two women are activists of the FNL party and



the Amizero y'Abarundi coalition, and were victims of the coalition's decision to call for a "no" vote during the last referendum poll of May 17, 2018.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that both women were hospitalized because of assault and battery. The police did not arrest any suspects of the attack. Relatives report that Kizuka zone chief, representing demobilized members of the former CNDD-FDD rebellion, is constantly protecting members of imbonerakure militiamen so that they will not be prosecuted.

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 carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of 11 and December 12, 2015 by police and military 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 the third term of President Nkurunziza namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Council.