

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT No. 134 PUBLISHED ON 7 JULY 2018

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers ranging between 30 June and 7 July 2018 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

Almost five (5) persons were murdered in different locations during that period. Among the victims, a four-year boy murdered after few days of his abduction. Two (2) men also suffered the torture by members of the imbonerakure militiamen in Kayogoro commune (Makamba), whom the police have still not arrested.

The report also notes five (5) cases of arbitrary arrests including three (3) students of the University of Burundi arrested by police agents in complicity with students members of imbonerakure militiamen.

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

- Members of the ruling party's Imbonerakure militiamen violently assaulted and tortured Nzokira on Dunga Hill, Gatabo Zone, Kayogoro Commune, Makamba Province, South of the country, on June 27, 2018. Relatives report that the victim succumbed to injuries to the hospital on July 2, 2018 (5 days after the assault).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the attackers were identified by the victim: Korimba who is the representative of imbonerakure militiamen on Dunga hill, as well as Wakera of the same militiamen. The police did not open any investigation or arrest the alleged perpetrators of Mr. Nzokira's assassination. Police agents show their complicity in the crimes committed by the ruling party militiamen.

- On June 27 members of Imbonerakure militiamen murdered Audace Nyobewumusi in Gatabo zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province (south of the country), 2018. Witnesses report that the victim was beaten to death. Members of the militia were identified among the attackers: the representative of the members of this militia in Gatabo named Havyarimana (Nkorabara) and the representative of the CNDD-FDD party in the same zone called Nyandwi (Warigara).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the complicity of administrative officials, especially Gatabo zone chief who helped the identified perpetrators to flee. The police have not yet arrested any of the suspected suspects.

- Unidentified individuals attacked Bukuru's house on Ngarama Hill, Mpinga Kayove Commune, Rutana Province (southeast of the country) on June 28, 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that Mr. Bukuru was seriously injured.

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

- In the evening of June 29, 2018, unidentified individuals murdered Donatien Ntamashimikiro on Gakobe hill, Rutana commune and province (southeast of the country). He is the deputy representative of the ruling party CNDD-FDD in Rutana province, and was chairperson of the National Commission of Lands and Other Goods in Rutana. Relatives report that the victim was beaten and strangled.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the victim was treated two (2) days before his murder for probable poisoning according to his relatives. Rutana's police have not yet identified any suspects.

- One (or more) unidentified individual (s) murdered King Horeb (4 years) whose body was discovered in front of his parents' home in the Kanyosha zone, Muha commune (south of Bujumbura) July 1, 2018. The boy had disappeared since June 28, 2018 according to the alert that was launched by his parents.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not yet identified any suspects of the kidnapping and killing of the boy.



The little King Horeb, kidnapped and brutally murdered

- Unidentified armed individuals murdered Epimaque on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, southern part of the country, on 5 July 2018. Witnesses reported that the victim is a motorcycle taxi driver who was transporting a client.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- On June 28, 2018, Police agents arrested Jean Bosco Nimpagaritse on Kigoma hill, Buhiga commune, Karusi province (central-east of the country). Relatives reported that Mr. Nimpagaritse is a displaced person in the displacement center of Kigoma.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that he is accused of rebelling against the administration. Relatives report, however, that he is a victim of his refusal to join the ruling party CNDD-FDD.

- Police agents arrested Eric Manirakiza, Mathieu Itangishaka and Jean Paul Kaburiyimbere at University of Burundi, Mutanga campus, Rohero zone, Mukaza commune (center of Bujumbura city) in the evening of July 2, 2018. Witnesses report that the campus security officer, who was accompanied by students members of imbonerakure militiamen, led the operation. The three (3) arrested students are accused of possessing weapons.

SOS-Torture/Burundi notes that the police did not report the location of the three students, the charges and the evidence of the weapons possession.

- Police agents arrested Olivier Ngabirano (17 years) on Mugendo-Ndego hill, Nyagasasa zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province (south of the country) on 3 July 2018 in the evening. Witnesses report that the police gave no explanation for the warrantless arrest.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the arrest of the young man was facilitated by a member of imbonerakure militiamen, who criticized Mr. Ngabirano for not joining the ruling party CNDD-FDD. Several hundred of young people from Mugamba commune have been victims of violent repression since the beginning of the crisis in 2015, following their active participation in the protests against the third term of the Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza.



SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the objective 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 days of December 11 and 12, 2015 by the police and military on 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' 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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