

## **SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI REPORT No. 129 PUBLISHED ON JUNE 2, 2018**

This report of SOS-Torture covers the period ranging between May 26 and June 2, 2018 on human rights violations cases in Burundi.

At least two (2) persons were murdered and several others wounded during a grenade attack. The report mentions attacks by members of imbonerakure militiamen targeting opposition supporters. These attacks and aggression are linked to the referendum vote of May 17, 2018, when the opposition coalition Amizero y'Abarundi called on its supporters to vote "no". Despite the end of the elections, the aggressions of the opponents do not diminish in intensity. They also take on new forms, including the physical destruction of the property of the opposition members.

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

- Unidentified individuals severely stabbed a man called Pierre on Kabingo Hill, Giharo Commune, Rutana Province, south-east of the country, on May 25, 2018. The victim died the next day due to serious injuries.

Sos-Torture Burundi learned from relatives that Mr. Pierre was a member of Giharo's communal council. The police have not identified any suspects of this assassination so far nor determined the motives.

- Members of the imbonerakure militiamen attacked Jean de Dieu Mbonyumugenzi home on Kiri Hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province (north of the country) in the evening of 28 May 2018. Relatives report that members of the militiamen were armed with clubs. Mr. Mbonyumugenzi is an active militant of FNL party, and was named as one of the political proxies of the Amizero y'Abarundi coalition during the referendum vote on May 17, 2018. The attacked victim and his neighbor Dieudonné Bigirimana defended themselves.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes, however, that police agents who intervened arrested Messrs. Mbonyumugenzi and Bigirimana to detain them in police cell. Police agents did not arrest any of the attackers.

- On May 30, 2018 unidentified individual (s) attacked with grenade a place near a gas station in Gisyo quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune (south of Bujumbura city). Witnesses report that two people were injured.

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

- Unidentified individuals attacked a group of people in a bistro and dwellings around Munyinya Hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province (center of the country) in the evening of May 31, 2018. Witnesses reported that the attackers threw grenades and fired at clients. One person was killed: Corneille Rurajuragiza and four other bistro clients were seriously injured.

Sos-Torture Burundi says the police have not yet identified any suspects.

## 2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- On May 25, 2018, National Intelligence Service agents arrested Phocas Nibaruta in Buhiga commune, Karusi province (central-east of the country). Witnesses report that Mr. Nibaruta answered a phone call from Buhiga hospital's accountant where the victim is performing an internship training. He was embarked by SNR agents who were waiting for him to get out the building.

Sos-Torture / Burundi notes that relatives were not informed of the young man's detention or the reasons for his arrest by SNR agents. This is an arbitrary detention, with a risk to the safety of the victim whose place of detention is unknown.

- On May 26, 2018, Members of Imbonerakure militiamen assaulted and tortured Jean Marie Mbonihankuye on Muhororo Hill, Makebuko Commune, Gitega Province (center of the country) .Relatives report that the victim is a member of the opposition coalition Amizero y'Abarundi. Mr. Mbonihankuye is victim of having worked on the day of the referendum of May 17, 2018 as political agent of the coalition, which had called its militants to vote for "no" in this referendum.

Sos-Torture Burundi learned from relatives that imbonerakure militiamen were led by Muhororo hill chief during the assault. The police have not investigated any suspects to date, although the group leader has been identified by the victim. Mr. Mbonihankuye had to be hospitalized because of the torture.

- Members of Imbonerakure militiamen destroyed properties belonging to activists opposition of Amizero y'Abarundi coalition on Butwe Hill, Gatara Commune, Kayanza Province (north-west of the country) on May 26, 2018. Witnesses report that the militiamen systematically destroyed fifteen (15) small kiosks serving as hair salons. The owners of these places are victims of their support of "no" during the referendum vote of May 17, 2018.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that the police did not arrest any of the suspects present during the rampage. It is an aggression aimed at the survival of opponents' families.

### **3. The court sentenced suspects accused of attempt assassination of a priest**

Sos-Torture Burundi has been informed of two individuals accused of attempting to assassinate priest Ildephonse Sabokwigina on Mbogora hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province (center of the country) on May 19, 2018. The parish priest of Nyabihanga parish had been seriously wounded after receiving three bullets from his aggressor (see **Sos-Torture Burundi report No. 128**: [http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SOS\\_Torture\\_Burundi\\_NO\\_128.pdf](http://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SOS_Torture_Burundi_NO_128.pdf)).

Mwaro Intermedaite Court sentenced Daniel Ntahiziye to 16 years in prison for 'attempted murder' and Ms Perrine Niyongere to 7 years in prison for 'complicity'.



The SOS-Torture / Burundi campaign 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 and 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 policemen and soldiers 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 President Nkurunziza's third mandate namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Hall.

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