

REPORT NO. 234 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON JUNE 6, 2020

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 30 May to 6 June 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least two (2) people were murdered during the period. One of the victims is a young woman raped and murdered in Cibitoke province. Another young student was raped after being abducted in Bubanza.

The report also mentions twelve (12) cases of arbitrary arrests. The victims are followers of priestess Eusebie Ngendakumana as well as members of the imbonerakure militia who supported another presidential candidate in the ruling party.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- A man murdered Pascal Nizigiyimana in the center of Mabanda municipality, Makamba province (south of the country) on May 29, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim, a member of the imbonerakure militia, was stabbed in a bar. Originally, he allegedly assaulted the companion of one of his comrades also a member of the imbonerakure, who stabbed him.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police arrested the main suspect named Juvenal Havyarimana and his partner Christine Minani.

- An individual murdered a young woman whose body was discovered in a hole on mparambo I Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on June 5, 2020. Witnesses report that the young woman was raped before she was murdered. She has been identified by locals as a member of the Twa community.

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

- Unidentified individuals abducted a girl named Chantal on 4 June 2020 in the commune and province Bubanza (west of the country). Relatives report that the victim was found the next day, arms and legs tied. She was raped by her kidnappers who also injured her head.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Bubanza police have not arrested any suspects to date. Relatives also report that the girl had alerted teachers of her school after receiving several calls of threats from unknown people.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police officers arrested four (4) people on Nyamugerera Hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province (west of the country) on 1 June 2020. Relatives report that these are the followers of Eusebie Ngendakumana whose several faithful were imprisoned and others murdered.

Sos-Torture/Burundi further notes that these four individuals are the victims of their refusal to sign an act of commitment aimed, inter alia, at agreeing to change their way of praying.

Sos-Torture/Burundi also learned of the arrest of four other Eusebie faithful in the Bururi commune and province (south of the country) on 31 May 2020. Witnesses report that their arrest was ordered by the governor of Bururi.

- Police officers arrested Jean de Dieu Nduwimana, Emile, Moises and Nduwimana in different localities of Bubanza province (western part of the country) on June 3, 2020. Relatives report that all these people are members of the imbonerakure militia, including local representatives. They would be victims of having supported the candidacy of Pascal Nyabenda, president of the National Assembly and native of Bubanza province to the candidacy of their CNDD-FDD party.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrests, the origin of which is an internal settlement within the ruling CNDD-FDD part.

3. Opponents released after elections

Sos-Torture/Burundi learned of the release of four members of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom) on 4 June 2020. These opponents, including Laurent Nduwayo, had been detained in Rumonge prison (southwest of the country) since May 15, 2020. Mr. Nduwayo was a candidate in the parliamentary elections of 20 May 2020 (CF. Sos-torture Burundi Report No. 231).



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that several CNL party activists are still in detention. They are victims of their political affiliation and the reports of electoral fraud they have made.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on serious human rights violations in Burundi through monitoring reports including torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced 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 12 December 2015 by police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected zones are said to be protesters of the third term of President Nkurunziza namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Town Hall of Bujumbura.

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