



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT NO. 235 PUBLISHED ON 13 JUNE 2020

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 6 to 13 June 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least two (2) people were murdered during the period. The victims are a man shot with a machete in Cibitoke and a woman shot by her husband in Kirundo. Another person was seriously injured by his boss.

The report also refers to eleven (11) cases of arbitrary arrests, including ten (10) committed in Bujumbura City Hall.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- A man was killed with a machete on Munyika II Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on the night of 7 June 2020. Witnesses report that he had just entered a household to commit a robbery. He wounded a mother in the arm before her husband came to her rescue by shooting down the intruder. His accomplices who remained outside fled.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the Rugombo police referred to a case of self-defence. Relatives of the attacked household report that the man killed is a member of the imbonerakure militia engaged in looting. The police did not identify him or find his accomplices.

- A man named Mbarushimana Leonidas (42 years old) shot his wife Bukuru Laetitia on Gasave Hill, Ntega municipality, Kirundo province (north of the country) in the afternoon of 8 June 2020. Relatives report that a quarrel between the couple due to a sum of money that the husband should bring home after the sale of the harvested beans. While the wife wanted to know the fate of this sum of money, her husband kicked her to the chest and she succumbed under the blows of her husband.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes domestic violence and welcomes the arrest of this man by Ntega police.



- A woman named Aline seriously injured Dusabe Pascasie (16 years old) in Shatanya III District, Gitega municipality and province (center of the country) on June 2, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim is a domestic worker. His boss punched him in the leg with irons.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police arrested the alleged perpetrator of the beatings, but that she was released only two days after her detention in the absence of any judicial decision.

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Police officers arrested seven (7) people in a bistro in the place commonly known as Gare du Nord in the urban municipality of Ntahangwa in Bujumbura City Hall on 8 June 2020. Witnesses report that they were accused of celebrating the death of President Nkurunziza of the Republic of Burundi.

Sos-Torture/Burundi was unable to identify those arrested and further notes an arbitrary arrest of those who quenched their thirst.

- Police officers arrested Yves Nsabimana, Laurier Bukuru and a certain treasure in District II, Nyakabiga area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura town hall on the night of 8 June 2020. Relatives report that the victims were accused of non-compliance with mourning decreed by the government.

Sos-Torture/Burundi further notes that these three persons are the victims of arbitrary arrest, as the communiqué instituting a national mourning did not specify the details of the acts to be observed in this context. It was only after the Council of ministers held on 11/6/2020 that these details were communicated to the public. No one may be charged, arrested, detained, or tried for acts or omissions which, at the time they were committed, did not constitute an offence.

- One person was arrested and detained in Rutana prison (south-east of the country) on 10 June 2020. Relatives report that the victim is a nurse named Onesphore suspected of alerting and posting a photo of a woman handcuffed on her hospital bed by a police officer.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes arbitrary arrest and inhumane treatment of police officers.



Woman handcuffed on her hospital bed in Rutana



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 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 Bujumbura.

The affected areas 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

SOS-TORTURE