

REPORT NO. 237 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 20 JUNE 2020

This SOS-Torture/Burundi report covers the period from 20 to 27 June 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least four (4) people were killed during the period and in different localities. Among the victims are a member of the military who was shot dead by a police officer in Cibitoke and a young woman who was raped and strangled in Kirundo.

The report also mentions four (4) cases of arbitrary and illegal arrests. The victims are a driver and his 3 customers accused of taking a picture of the monument that was going to host the remains of the late President Nkurunziza.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- A police officer shot Nzeyimana method on burarana Hill, Bururi municipality and province (south of the country) in the evening of June 20, 2020. Relatives report that the victim is a student of gahama communal High School who was returning home after a review session of his classes.

Sos-Torture Burundi notes that Bururi police have arrested the alleged murderer awaiting trial.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Denis Bizimungu (60 years old) whose body was discovered at his home on The Hill and commune of Bukinyana, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on June 21, 2020. Relatives report that the executioners also ransacked the House of the deceased and that a sum of money corresponding to the sale of a plot was no longer in the House.

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

- A police officer shot dead a soldier named Nazère Mpfayokurera on Rusiga Hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province in the evening of June 21, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was serving drinks at a local bistro owned by him. Police officers came in to drink beer. The victim was shot with 7 bullets in the head for asking the police why they were beating a local resident.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that four police officers, including the shooter named Diomede Irinubushobozi, have been arrested. The shooter was sentenced on 23 June 2020 to life imprisonment and his three accomplices are sentenced to 2 to 3 years in prison for having pleaded guilty.

- An individual murdered Chantal Mukarwego whose body was discovered on Kavogero Hill, Kirundo municipality and province (north of the country) on June 22, 2020. Relatives report that the victim was returning home at the time of his assault. She was raped and strangled according to witnesses.

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

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

Police and national intelligence officers from Gitega province arrested Ntezimana Ernest on June 20, 2020 next to the recently constructed monument in Gitega which was to house the body of the late President Nkurunziza. Witnesses report that the victim is a taxi driver from Muyira hill, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province, resident in Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune in Bujumbura town hall. He was arrested with his three clients. According to witnesses, they were victims of an image that was taken by one of them of this monument while preparations for the burial of the deceased president were in full swing.

They were reportedly taken militarily to the SNR cell in Bujumbura.

Sos-Torture/Burundi has learned that the arrest was inhumanly brutal and notes an arbitrary arrest, especially since taking pictures of a public place does not constitute an offense.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

The 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 the 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.

SOS-TORTURE