

REPORT NO. 238 OF SOS-TORTURE / BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 4 JULY 2020

This SOS-Torture/Burundi This report covers the period from June 27 to July 4, 2020, and concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during the period. The victims are two men beheaded in Cibitoke and a young woman raped and strangled to death in Karusi.

The report also refers to the enforced disappearance of an opposition member, one hundred and one (101) persons detained irregularly in different places of detention in Ngozi province since the last May election campaigns and the very precarious conditions of detention in the Rumonge police dungeon and their consequences on the security of detainees.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- Unidentified individuals murdered two men whose decaying bodies were discovered on Ruhembe Hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province (northwest of the country) on June 27, 2020. Witnesses report that the victims were beheaded and their bodies tied to a tree. The executioners worked hard on the faces of the victims, which has not yet allowed their identification.

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

- Unidentified individual(s) murdered a young girl whose decaying body was discovered on Nyamugari Hill, Buhiga municipality, Karusi province (central-east of the country) on 1 July 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was allegedly raped and left naked.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that Buhiga police have not identified the victim or his executioner (s).

2. Violations of the right to liberty and physical security

- Unidentified individuals abducted Charles Nzigirabarya in Kiyenzi zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province on 28 June 2020. Witnesses report that the victim went to an appointment following a call from a person posing as a client. Mr. Nzigirabarya is a cook and offers services for parties. He was abducted by men in police uniforms who took him on board a Toyota-branded Probox vehicle.

Sos-Torture/Burundi noted that Mr. Nzigirabarya had not been found since that day despite the searches carried out by his family in police dungeons. Relatives also report that he is a member of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

- Information received on June 27, 2020 indicates one hundred and one (101) persons, mainly members of the CNL party are held in various dungeons in Ngozi province. Most of these detainees has been incarcerated since the time of preparation of elections and the election campaign including the day of the triple election of May 20, 2020 while others were arrested at later dates.

Sos Torture notes that various phony charges have been made against them and that these detainees are living in deplorable conditions even though their detention has already exceeded the limits of preventive detention

3. Promiscuity in prison cells engenders violence

-Torture / Burundi is concerned about the very precarious conditions of detention in the police dungeon in Rumonge province (south-west of the country). As of June 30, 2020, at least 51 inmates were crammed into this dungeon, which does not have the capacity to accommodate so many inmates. Witnesses also report that new detainees are subjected to violence by former detainees because of this cramped situation.

As a result of a lack of drinking water, inmates must purchase a 20-liter can of drinking water for 500 BIF. This amount is ransomed to new inmates who are beaten to pay. Prison overcrowding thus extends to police dungeons. In addition to the very deplorable conditions of hygiene, Inter-prisoner violence becomes a new source of concern.



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.

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