

## **SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT NO. 239 PUBLISHED ON 11 JULY 2020**

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 4 to 11 July 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi.

At least six (6) people were killed during the period in different localities. Among the victims are a man whose body was discovered in Lake Tanganyika and a girl who was raped and slaughtered. Twelve other people were injured in armed attacks.

The report also mentions eight (8) cases of arbitrary arrests: Seven Scouts on a camping trip and one member of the opposition.

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

- A man named Ciya murdered his employer in the Village II, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province (west of the country) on July 3, 2020 in the evening. Relatives report that the author is a seasonal field worker. His employer asked him about the reasons for his absence from work and was stabbed.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police in Gihanga have not arrested the alleged suspect to date.

- Unidentified individuals murdered a man whose body was discovered floating in Lake Tanganyika near Mukungu Hill, Nyanza Lake municipality, Makamba province (south of the country) on July 3, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was tied up, presumably killed elsewhere before his body failed near the banks of Mukungu Hill.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the administration ordered the burial of the body before the victim was identified. This also prevents the identification of its executioners.



The body of the victim was floating in Lake Tanganyika at the time of his discovery

- Armed men ambushed on muremera Hill, kigamba municipality, cankuzo province (east of the country) on 8 July 2020. During the attack, Radjabu Ntakimazi, Mahmoud Ndayisenga and Ezekiel Semugabo were wounded. The victims are cow traders.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not arrested any suspects to date. Victims of the attack pointed out that their attackers were wearing military outfits.

- Unidentified individuals killed one man and wounded nine (9) others in a grenade attack in the Buterere area, Ntangwa commune (north of Bujumbura City) on the evening of 8 July 2020.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have not identified the perpetrators of the attack or their motives.

- An individual(s) murdered Marie-Annick Bayishemeze (18 years old) whose body was discovered in a eucalyptus field near the offices of Musongati commune, Rutana province (southeast of the country) on July 9, 2020. Relatives report that the victim, a high school student, had been missing since July 7, 2020. She was raped and slaughtered by her executioner (s).

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

- Individuals murdered Nicodème Ndikumana (64 years old) whose body was discovered on Kibenga Hill, Gitaramuka Commune, Karusi province (central-east of the country) on July 9, 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was stabbed and slaughtered by his executioners.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the police have arrested three suspects who are the children of Mr. Ndikumana.

- Unidentified individuals murdered Spes Nshimirimana (48 years old) whose body were discovered at his home on Muramba Hill, Bugenyuzi Commune, Karusi province (central-east of the country) on 10 July 2020. Witnesses report that the victim was slain by his executioners.

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

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

- Members of the imbonerakure militia arrested seven (7) youth of the Scout movement while camping on Gitaba Hill, Municipality and Rutana province (southeast of the country) on July 1, 2020. Witnesses report that the scouts were authorized by the administration.

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes the illegal arrests by members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party and the complicity of the police who detained these scouts without cause. They were released after 2 days of imprisonment.

- The head of the National Intelligence Service of Rumonge province (southwest of the country) arrested Janvier Nibitanga on Cashi Hill, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province on July 6, 2020. Relatives report that he first detained him at his home before moving him the next day to the Rumonge police dungeon. Mr. Nibitanga is a member of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom).

Sos-Torture/Burundi notes that the head of the Rumonge SNR accuses him of participating in armed gangs, but the real reasons for his detention have not been communicated to him. This is an arbitrary arrest of a member of the opposition.



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 December and that of 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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