

## **REPORT NO. 241 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 25 JULY 2020**

This SOS-Torture Burundi' report covers the period from 18 to 25 July 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person succumbed to beatings received during an interrogation by members of the youth affiliated to the ruling party and local administrative officer

The report also refers to the abusive arrest of three opposition municipal councilors for political motives in Rumonge province as well as thirteen other people arrested in Bujumbura Town Hall including three women.

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

- A nicknamed PIGU inhabitant of the Kirundo commune center succumbed to the blows he received during an arrest operated by imbonerakure led by Solomon on 07/07/2020. The victim was tortured in the Office of Kirundo zone, Mr. Ezekiel NIYONZIMA. He was suspected of stealing a mobile phone. After this beating, the victim was transported to his home and left alone in agony.

It was only the next day that the neighbors discovered the body of the deceased at his home.

Relatives of the victim do not understand how their own, living with handicap, could have been tortured to death in the eyes of an administrative officer and that justice remains silent about this.

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

- Sos-Torture Burundi has learned of the detention of three municipal councillors from the opposition party CNL (National Congress for freedom) in order to prevent them from participating in the election of senators on 20 July 2020. These are councillors Jonas Nzambimana, Jérémie Nibitanga and Jean Marie Vianney of Muhuta municipality, Rumonge province (south-west of the country). These municipal councillors were elected in the May 20, 2020 elections and were to elect with other councillors the Senators of Rumonge province.



Sos-Torture Burundi notes arbitrary and abusive detentions aimed at preventing dissenting voices.

- Sos - torture Burundi has learned of the arrest in catimini of 22 people all in the Bujumbura town on 21/07/2020.

Among those arrested are members of the opposition party CNL whose representative in Buterere area named Abbas SIMBAKWIRA elected municipal councillor in NTAHANGWA municipality and his wife arrested after a search of their home.

Thirteen (13) of these arrested persons remain detained in different dungeons of Bujumbura including that of the Judicial Police and prosecutors (PJP) in Bwiza, other nine were released.

SOS Torture Burundi notes that the relatives of the arrested persons were not able to know the reasons for this arrest and that the accused were not assisted by lawyers.

SOS-Torture/Burundi has been initiated in the aim of informing national and international public opinion on the serious violations of human rights ongoing in Burundi through monitoring reports on issues such as torture, arbitrary arrests, the enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform on the realities of the country following the carnage of a hundred people killed on December 11 and December 12, 2015 by police and military under the pretext of pursuing the rebels who came to attack the military camps located in the outskirts of the city.

The affected areas are said to be dissidents of the third mandate of the President Nkurunziza to know Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the two latter being located at the centre of Bujumbura.