

REPORT N°243 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 08 AUGUST 2020

This SOS-Torture report covers the period from 1 to 8 August 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least twenty-three (23) people were murdered during the period in different localities. Among the victims are eight (08) people burned to death in two arsons in the provinces of Bujumbura and Muyinga, twelve (12) corpses discovered in the Kibira forest and three (03) people killed in the provinces of Karusi, Gitega and Cankuzo.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- The lifeless body of Gahungu Audace (43 years old) was discovered by passers-by on Sunday morning, 02 August 2020, on Mwoya hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karusi province. According to Buhiga zone chief, his body was found hanging from a tree with a rope around his neck.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the motives for this death have not been elucidated.

- On Sunday 02 August 2020, police officers shot and killed Mubarak Minani near his home on Ndava, Cankuzo province. Witnesses say that Minani was first apprehended by Cankuzo police for stealing a mobile phone from the wife of the public prosecutor in Cankuzo province before being shot dead by Cankuzo police as he tried to escape. The victim succumbed to his injuries en route to Cankuzo hospital.

Sos-Torture Burundi deploras an extrajudicial execution and that Cankuzo police have not arrested any police officers to date in connection with an investigation into the murder.

- Unidentified criminals murdered a man known as Juvénal Banyankirubusa (47 years old) with daggers and clubs on the night of Monday 3 August 2020 as he was returning to his residence on Cishwa hill, Bugendana zone, Gitega province from a bistro.

Sos-Torture Burundi has learned that Bugendana judicial police has already arrested two sons of the victim, Fulgence Nsavyumwami and Levis

Nduwumwami, who are being held in the police dungeon of Bugendana for investigative reasons.

- During the night of Tuesday 04 August 2020, on Ndagano hill, Nyambuye zone, Isare commune, Bujumbura province, unidentified individuals set fire to the house of a certain Pascal Ndarwarukanye. Witnesses claim that inside the burned house were three children aged 11, 8 and 4 years respectively, who died immediately.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that four (4) persons among them parents of the victims were arrested by the police as part of an investigation to determine the motive for this abject crime.

- On Wednesday, 05 August 2020 at approximately 9 p.m., on Rugari hill, Muyinga commune and province, five (5) persons from the same family (the head of the family Zéphyrin Ntirandekura, his wife and three children aged 11, 7 and 4 years respectively) all perished in an arson attack started by persons not yet identified. According to witnesses, the perpetrators crammed the victims into a single room before burning the house down.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that the police in Muyinga apprehended two neighbours of the victims as part of an investigation into the motive for this heinous crime.

- Twelve (12) lifeless bodies were discovered by residents around 17h 45 minutes on Wednesday, 05 August 2020 in Kibira forest, more precisely in the valley of Barikore, Gafumbegeti hill, Butahana zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province. Witnesses reveal that the bodies were covered with two tarpaulins and that some of them were tied up.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that an investigation has been opened to try to discover the identity of these victims and the circumstances of their murder.



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 committed 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.

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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