

## **REPORT N° 252 OF SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 10, 2020**

This SOS-Torture report covers the period from 03 to 10 October 2020 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least three (03) people were murdered during the period in different localities of the country.

This report also deploras fifty-three (53) cases of arbitrary arrests directed mainly against activists of opposition political parties.

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

- A lifeless body in a state of decomposition lying in the fields of Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province since September 29, 2020 has been identified Sunday, September 04, 2020 as that of a woman called Pulcherie Nizigama, from village 3 of Gihanga zone and commune, Cibitoke province. According to her family members, this woman had answered a phone call on September 27, 2020 while she was at her home in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, and the motive for this murder and its perpetrators are not yet known.

SOS Torture Burundi has learned that the body of the deceased was finally buried on October 7, 2020, after 11 days of macabre discovery.

- In the afternoon of Thursday, November 08, 2020 around 12:00 p.m., two lifeless bodies of unidentified persons were discovered on crossroads 3 Gasenyi hill and zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province near the Rusizi river. According to sources on the spot, these bodies were still fresh, suggesting that these people were murdered during the night of the previous day. The same sources reveal that those bodies were buried immediately on the orders of the Buganda communal administrator, despite protests from the population who demanded their prior identification before burial.

SOS Torture Burundi regrets that people are regularly killed and their bodies are then thrown into public places where the local administration gives orders to bury them without prior identification of the victims.

## 2. Arbitrary arrests

- Earlier in the morning of Thursday, October 8, 2020, elements of police and army carried out joint search operations in households on Nyabigina hill, Kabuye zone in Makamba commune and province and arrested 53 persons whom they accused of not possessing identity documents. Witnesses reported that those arrested were taken to the provincial police station in Makamba.

SOS Torture Burundi denounced arbitrary and untimely arrests of Burundian citizens for lack of identity documents at a time when administrative hassles, which have become commonplace, are a reflection of the state of political and administrative governance of the regime in place.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion on serious human rights violations taking place in Burundi through monitoring reports on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform on the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of December 11 and 12, 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 areas are said to be contesting President Nkurunziza's third term of office, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Bujumbura City Hall.