

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT N°288 PUBLISHED ON 19 JUNE 2021

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from 12th to 19th June 2021 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least seven (7) persons were murdered during the period in different localities of the country.

SOS Torture Burundi reiterates that the right to life is an unalienable right protected by art. 24 of the Burundian constitution, art. 3 of the UDHR and art. 6 (1) of the ICCPR.

SOS Torture Burundi would like to remind Burundian authorities that the failure of a State to investigate allegations of arbitrary deprivation of the right to life constitutes a violation of the right to an effective remedy, but also of the right to life itself.

The report also deplores the fact that Seven (7) people were injured in attacks and the perpetrators are still at large.

SOS Torture Burundi urges the judicial and police authorities to conduct credible investigations to identify the perpetrators and motives of these attacks that continue to plunge families into mourning.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the evening of 13th June 2021, Aline KWIZERA, a young woman in her twenties, was shot dead on Gahaga hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya Province (Centre of Burundi).

Witnesses reveal that the victim was on her way from a market in Bukeye with her sister when they were ambushed by armed persons. The young woman died at Giko hospital of her injuries.

- A sixty-year-old man named MBUZEKONGIRA Gabriel was killed on 13th June 2021 at his home on Ruvumera Hill, Rugombo Commune, Cibitoke Province (Western of the country).

Witnesses who deplore the lack of a clear response from the authorities say that the victim was murdered with knives by people who broke into his bedroom.

SOS Torture Burundi calls on Burundian authorities to disarm the civilian population and to withdraw the weapons that have been distributed to the Imbonerakure militia, who have continued to kill people since 2015.

- In the morning of 16 June 2021, the lifeless bodies of Dieudonné BIZIMANA and Pascal NTACONAYIGIZE, two gold miners, were found in their house on Nyamihana hill, Rubone zone of Mugina commune of Cibitoke province (western of Burundi).

- A lifeless body of Angeline NDIKUMWENAYO in her twenties, was found on Tuesday evening, June 15, 2021, on Mahembe hill, Gitaba zone of Makamba province (South of the country).

Witnesses report that the young woman had been missing since Sunday evening, June 13, 2021 after replying to a call on her cell phone.

- A lifeless body of Samuel BIGIRIMANA was found on Wednesday 16th June 2021 on Kiderege hill, Kazirabageni zone of Nyanza-Lac commune in Makamba province (Southern of Burundi).

The testimonies collected say that this father of two children was found hanging on a rope, simulating a suicide.

SOS Torture Burundi urges independent investigations to determine the motives for these murders and for the perpetrators to be punished.

- A man in his fifties named Anaclet NDIKUMWENAYO was brutally killed with a knife on June 17, 2021 by unidentified persons. The murder took place on Gitsinda hill in the Muzenga zone of the Buyengero commune, Rumonge province.

These abuses, committed repeatedly without the intervention of state agents to stop them, illustrate the widespread climate of impunity for perpetrators who continue to hunt down citizens without being worried about their crimes.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the night of 13th June 2021, at around 9pm, in an armed attack, Marie Goreth NZEYIMANA was seriously injured on Gahanga hill in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province, as she was returning from a trading center in the company of her sister, who succumbed to her injuries.

- On 13th June 2021, unidentified individuals who broke into the bedroom seriously injured a woman after killing her husband on Ruvumera hill in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province.

- Unidentified individuals threw a grenade at the home of Mr. Dieudonné NIYITUGABIRA, located in the Karera I district of the city of Gitega (in the center of the country), injuring five people, including a child named Princia UWIMANA and Mireille NDUWIMANA.

According to local sources, the victims were evacuated to the hospital in Muramvya and others to hospitals in the city of Bujumbura.

SOS-Torture/Burundi deplores this resurgence of targeted attacks that continue to take the lives of peaceful citizens and injure several.



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 about serious human rights violations taking place in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly on torture, arbitrary arrests, forced 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 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 areas affected are said to be those contesting the third term of President Nkurunziza, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the centre of the Bujumbura town hall.