

SOS-TORTURE/BURUNDI REPORT NO. 287 PUBLISHED ON JUNE 12, 2021

This report of SOS-Torture/Burundi covers the period from June 5th to 12th, 2021 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least three (3) persons were murdered during this period in different localities of the country.

This report also deplores the case of one (1) victim of arbitrary arrest and detention.

1. Violations of the right to life

–A lifeless body of a man known as Pierre Ngendandumwe, aged 46, was recovered on Saturday 5th June 2021 from the waters of the Mpanda river, at the foot of Kinyinya hill, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province (western Burundi).

Sources on the spot reveal that the victim was originally from Giheta commune in Gitega province.

– In the morning of Sunday 6th June 2021, a lifeless body of a man known as Gérard Rirabakina (45 years) was discovered in front of the entrance of his home located at Gasera hill, Mutumba commune, Karuzi province (central-eastern Burundi).

Sources on the spot say that the victim was murdered with machetes during the night of 5th to 6th June on his way home from a bar where he was quenching his thirst, which he had left at around 11 p.m. to return home.

The same sources testify that Gérard Rirabakina was murdered with machetes by unidentified criminals because of the numerous wounds all over his body.

SOS-Torture/Burundi calls on the country's authorities to put an end to the phenomenon of lifeless bodies abandoned in public places and the impunity enjoyed by the Imbonerakure, who are often singled out as the perpetrators of these abominable crimes.

–On the morning of Wednesday 9th June 2021, a lifeless body of a woman called Ndayisaba was discovered at her home located on Ruhinga hill, Nyagasasa zone, Mugamba commune, in Bururi province (south of the country).

According to sources on the spot, neighbours were alerted by the cries of her baby and suspect her father-in-law, Apollinaire Kadidambari, of being the author of the murder.

The same sources reveal that the victim's father-in-law, a teacher at the Basic Scholl of Ruhinga, his wife and two of his daughters were arrested at their home on the same day by the police as part of an investigation into the death of this woman in order to identify the perpetrator and the motives for the crime.

2. Violations of the right to liberty: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- Since Wednesday 21st May 2021, Olivier Nzeyimana, an inhabitant of Mitakataka zone, Bubanza commune and province, has been wrongfully detained in the provincial police station of the same province for an offence committed by another person who pleaded guilty.

According to sources on the spot, Olivier Nzeyimana was arrested by a certain Jules, the leader of Imbonerakure of Mitakataka hill who accused him of having stolen a motorbike.

The same sources affirm that a few days later, the real author of the theft, named Viateur, a resident of the village, was arrested and incarcerated in the same cell. He also confessed during the interrogation that he had stolen the motorbike and that he did not even know Olivier Nzeyimana.

SOS-Torture/Burundi calls for the immediate release of the victim and denounces the arbitrary arrests and detentions that have become recurrent, especially since, on the one hand, the victim was arrested by a person who did not have the authority to make an arrest and, on the other hand, he is being kept in detention without any valid reason.



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 11th and 12th 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 city.

The zones 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.