

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N°297 PUBLISHED ON 21 AUGUST 2021

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 14 to 21 August 2021 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least four (4) people were murdered during the period in different localities of the country and three (3) others were seriously injured.

The report also deplores the case of one (1) young girl who was raped by a group of unidentified men and of one (1) young CNL (National Congress for Liberty) party activist who was abducted by an SNR (National Intelligence Service) agent.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of 16 August 2021, at around 11p.m., the lifeless body of Captain Bakije Eric Seigneur was discovered at his home located at Avenue Malta Forest no. 33 in Carama quarter, Kinama zone, in the urban commune of Ntakangwa in Bujumbura town hall (western Burundi).

According to witnesses, the lifeless body of the victim was found lying on the bed in his room in a pool of blood next to a pistol, a shell and a cartridge. The motives, perpetrators and circumstances of the death are still unclear.

- On the morning of 16 August 2021 at around 10a.m., farmers discovered the decomposing body of an unidentified man in a banana plantation on Ruberizi hill, Ruziba zone, Mugina commune, in Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi). Sources on the spot reported that the victim was immediately buried on the orders of the commune administrator, Julienne Ndayihaya, without any procedure for his identification.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi

- On 17 August 2021, the lifeless body of an unidentified girl in her early twenties was discovered on the banks of the Ruvyironzariver at the foot of the Gihehe hill, Gihetacommune, in Gitega province (central Burundi). According to witnesses, the victim was would have been raped before being murdered.
- On the morning of 17 August 2021, the lifeless body of Fidèle Nikuze, a 42-year-old night watchman, was found in front of a shop he was guarding on the Masenga sub-hill of Ntobwe hill, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to sources on the spot, the victim was wearing only underwear and had been strangled as his body showed no apparent signs of injury.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- During the night of 18 to 19 August 2021, at around 2 a.m., unidentified men armed with machetes and clubs broke into two households located on the hills of Kanabubu and Ruvumu in the commune and province of Bubanza (north-western Burundi) and seriously injured two men, Fabrice Ciza and Jean Bosco Ndayishimiye, and an elderly woman called Matrone. According to local sources, the three victims were evacuated to Bubanza hospital for medical treatment.

3. Case of gender-based violence (rape)

- On the night of 19 August 2021 at around midnight, unidentified men broke into a household located on the hill of Kanabubu in the commune and province of Bubanza and abducted a 20-year-old girl known as Nshimirimana who was sleeping with her mother.

According to sources on the spot, they took her to an isolated place and raped her in rotation.

The same sources denounce multiple crimes committed by the Imbonerakure who carry out patrols and nightly rounds in the locality.

4. Case of abduction

- During the night of 15 to 16 August 2021 at around 1 a.m., on the Rubuye sub-hill of the Mparambo I hill in Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi), a CNL party activist known as Aloys Ngendakumana (32 years old) was abducted by Nestor Hebureje, the head of the SNR in the communes of Rugombo and Mugina in the same province, and taken to a so far unknown location.

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.