

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 298 PUBLISHED ON 28 AUGUST 2021**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 21 to 28 August 2021 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least two (2) people were murdered during the period in different localities of the country.

The report also deplores the case of four (4) people who were arbitrarily arrested and two (2) others who were abducted.

### **1. Violations of the right to life**

- On the night of 24 to 25 August 2021, at around 1 a.m., Omer Ndayishimiye, a night security guard at Mr Kabayabaya' home, was shot dead by a group of armed criminals on Musongati hill in Kiganda commune of Muramvya province (central Burundi).

According to sources on the spot, a group of four individuals, including two armed with Kalashnikov, burst into the home of a Mr Kabayabaya and shot the security guard they met, who died immediately, while two cows' guards were able to shout for help, thus making the criminals flee. The same sources said that no suspect had yet been apprehended.

- On the morning of 27 August 2021, the lifeless body of an old woman named Monique, a woman in her seventies, was found in a bush located on Cona hill, Mitakataka zone, in Bubanza commune and province. According to sources on the spot, the victim had gone in search of firewood and at the time of her discovery, her body had wounds on the head.

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

- On 21 August 2021, three CNL (National Congress for Liberty) party activists from the same family, Moïse Nzeyimana, Claudine Nahayo and Emelyne Ziragaba, were arbitrarily arrested at their home by a group of Imbonerakure armed with clubs on the Rusi hill in Shombo commune of Karusi province (central-eastern Burundi) and are being held in the communal police cells at Shombo.

According to witnesses, young Imbonerakure from the ruling party, CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Forces for the Defence of Democracy), burst into the home of the three victims and arrested them without providing any reason for their arrest. The same sources believe that political motives were behind this triple arbitrary arrest, given that the three victims had refused to break the rental contract of their house, which serves as the CNL party's headquarters.

SOS-Torture Burundi condemns the behaviour of the youth of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, who have long arrogated to themselves the right to encroach on the rights and freedoms of other citizens with impunity. It calls on the Head of State, General Évariste Ndayishimiye, to order the end of persecutions attributed to the Imbonerakure and local authorities in order to put the country back on the rails of a state governed by the rule of law and respectful of the rights and freedoms of individuals, instead of whining about the situation that has become untenable in all sectors of national life.

- On the morning of 23 August 2021, Cyrille Hamenyimana, a retired soldier who had served in the former Burundian Armed Forces (FAB), was arbitrarily arrested at his home on Mbizi hill in Kibago commune of Makamba province (southern Burundi).

According to sources on the spot, the head of the SNR in Makamba province, OPC1 Méroé Ntunzwenimana, and the chief in Kigabo communal police with other several

policemen, arrested Cyrille Hamenyimana without any explanation as to the reason for his arrest and took him to the dungeon of the police station in Makamba.

The same sources reveal that Cyrille Hamenyimana had gone to his home from Bujumbura to attend a family ceremony and that his arrest was linked to a conspiracy to possess weapons orchestrated by the Imbonerakure of that locality.

### 3. Case of abduction

- Since the night of 23 August 2021, Charles Niyomwungere, a second-hand clothes seller at Bamba market in Bururi commune and province (southern Burundi), has been missing.

According to witnesses, on their way back from the market, a motorcyclist who was transporting him claimed that his motorbike had broken down when they arrived at the Nyagatovu hill in the same commune and suggested to his client to get off before starting off again, leaving the victim in distress.

The same sources indicate that the police managed the next day to arrest the motorcyclist who is suspected to be behind the disappearance of this seller.

- In the afternoon of 23 August 2021, a man repatriated from Rwanda known as Christophe Niyonzima, aged around forty and a native of Bugabira commune in Kirundo province (northern Burundi), was abducted from his vehicle by men in police uniforms at a place called "Kumasanganzira", at the junction of the roads to Kirundo, Ngozi and Musinga. According to witnesses, Christophe Niyonzima had come from Kirundo province with clients in his Probox vehicle, registration number KA 2422, used as a taxi-car. When he arrived at "Kumasangazira", men in police uniforms, identified as SNR (National Intelligence Service) agents, forcibly pulled him out of his vehicle and put him in a van with tinted windows to an unknown destination, while his vehicle was driven by another person among the kidnappers.



SOS-Torture Burundi appeals to the country's authorities, in this case the Head of State, to put an end to the recurrent phenomenon of enforced disappearances attributed to state agents, instead of indulging in denials that are constantly contradicted by the reality of the facts.

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.

SOS