

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N°296 PUBLISHED ON 14 AUGUST 2021

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 08 to 14 August 2021 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during the period in different localities of the country and two (2) others were seriously injured.

The report also deplores the cases of twelve (12) people who were victims of arbitrary arrests and four (4) others who were abducted.

1. Violations of the right to life

- In the morning of 10 August 2021, a lifeless body of a man was found on the hill RUSHUNGURA in the zone, commune and Province of Rutana. The victim has not been identified; the perpetrators and motives of this heinous act remain unknown.

- On Wednesday 11 August 2021, Jean Bosco Kiduranya, a man in his sixties, was murdered by a hit to the head while at work as a night watchman at Mugozi hill, Bururi commune, Bururi province (South of the country). Witnesses revealed that the victim had a large impact on his head, which suggests that the violence of the blow would have taken his life immediately.

- On Thursday 12 August 2021, at around 7pm, a man in his fifties known as Anselme Nsavyimana, from the Mwungere locality of Mivo zone, Ngozi commune and province (North of Burundi) was killed by unidentified armed persons. Two (2) others who were coming to his aid were seriously injured.

SOS Torture is deeply concerned that the right to life continues to be violated in Burundi and that investigation to determine the motives and responsibilities for these crimes are not keeping pace with the escalation of abuses. That situation gives comfort to the perpetrators.

2. Violations of the right to freedom: arbitrary arrest and detention and kidnapping.

- On 9 August 2021, Bavugirije from the Bigina zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, was arrested by Méroé Ntunzwenimana, head of the intelligence service in Makamba, after a search of his home. The intelligence officer did not disclose the motives for the arrest.

According to neighbours, he had just been granted a presidential pardon.

- On 9 August 2021, Ernest Nzambima, a retired military officer, was abducted in Muramvya city by persons in police uniforms in a Probox vehicle with tinted windows. The family says it does not know where their loved one is being held and fears for his safety.

- On 10 August 2021, Lazare Ndagijimana, Marc Manirakiza and Pierre Ndereyimana were abducted by people in a van with tinted windows.

Witnesses who suspect agents of the national intelligence service say that the three people are fervent militants of the CNL (Congrès National pour la Liberté) and after they were picked up, the vehicle took the road from Mwaro-Gitega and that no one has had any news of these victims so far.

- On 11 August 2021, eleven people were irregularly arrested on the hill Mugendo-Ndengo commune of Mugamba in the province of Bururi.

According to witnesses at the scene, these arrests followed a series of searches that began at around 3 am under the supervision of Commissioner Moïse Arakaza and during which no prohibited items were found.

Testimonies reveal that this intelligence officer has a habit of detaining people at his home or in secret locations for torture sessions. The other most recent case is that of Nadine Kanyange who was kept at the home of this officer for torture.

- On 12 august 2021, NDAYISABA Pierre Claver, an activist of CNL party from KABINGO hill, BUTEZI zone, GIHARO commune in Rutana province was arrested by the intelligence officer in Rutana province.

According to witnesses, he was first beaten up by Imbonerakure before being handed over to this intelligence officer.

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.