

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 300 PUBLISHED ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2021

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 4 to 11 September 2021 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person was murdered during this period and four (4) people were seriously injured in different localities of the country.

The report also deplores the case of one (1) person who was abducted in Bujumbura town hall.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Sunday 5 September 2021, at around 10 p.m., a soldier named Pascal Niyomwungere, assigned to the 312th battalion located in Giteranyi commune of Muyinga province (north-east of Burundi), shot and killed Isaac and seriously wounded two other people, Didace Nzibarega and Isaac Nkengurukiyimana, in the legs, following a fight that broke out in a bistro located on Munago hill in the same commune.

According to sources on the spot, Pascal Niyomwungere, in civilian clothes, was sharing a glass of beer in a bistro with some residents of the locality when an argument broke out which degenerated into a fight during which he was beaten by individuals with whom he was sharing beer. Thus, after the quarrel, the soldier rushed to his Munago post to take his rifle and returned to the bistro to shoot blindly at all those who were there.

According to the same sources, the injured persons were evacuated to Ngozi hospital for treatment, while the perpetrator was immediately arrested and detained in Giteranyi camp.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the night of Monday 7 September 2021 at around 9:45 p.m., Aristide Niyoyankunze, a resident of the Kinzanza hill and zone, in Gitanga commune of Rutana province (south-east of Burundi), was arrested and then severely beaten by two Imbonarekure named Pierre and Anicet, who accused him of having violated the curfew, which is not governed by any law in Burundian legislation in force. The perpetrators of this act of torture have never been questioned.
- On the night of Tuesday to Wednesday, 8 September 2021, at around 3 a.m., an activist of the CNL party (National Congress for Liberty) known as Isidore Ntahomvukiye was seriously injured from burns to his shoulders during an arson attack on his home located on Dunga hill and zone, Kayogoro commune, in Makamba province (southern Burundi).

According to sources on the spot, so far unknown criminals set fire to the house when the victim's family members were all asleep. Although all the assets were consumed, the occupants of the house barely escaped the fire, despite the serious burns suffered by the head of the household.

The same sources believe that this criminal act follows a campaign of hatred and intimidation of opponents organised in July and August by the deputy and former administrator of Kibago commune, Zachée Misago, during meetings in which he had called on CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party activists to ill-treat CNL members whom they considered to be recalcitrant.

3. Case of abduction

- On the afternoon of Friday 10 September 2021, at around 5 p.m., Thierry Niyonkuru, a native of Ijenda hill, Mugongo-Manga commune, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi), was abducted in Bujumbura town hall by two men in police uniforms who were on board a Toyota TI car with the registration number AA 5147 and driven to an unknown destination.

According to local sources, Thierry Niyonkuru, on his way back from Rutegama commune where he had spent a short stay, first met the wife of a police officer, Hassan Nimubona alias Love Mohammed, at Butanyerera station, not far from the "Monument of the Unknown Soldier". According to the family of this police officer, Thierry Niyonkuru was arrested by people in police uniforms in a Toyota TI car with the registration number AA 5147 on the road to Musaga, which would have taken the road through Kinanira towards the International School of Bujumbura.

A well-informed source reveals that police officer Hassan Nimubona alias Love Mohammed is cited in several cases of enforced disappearance of people initially treated as his so-called friends who later disappeared after meeting him, suggesting that he is being used by the SNR to set traps for individuals who are in its sights.



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.