

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 301 PUBLISHED ON 18 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 three (3) people were murdered during the period in different localities of the country and six (6) others were seriously injured.

The report also deplores the case of two (2) people who were abducted in Bujumbura city.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the afternoon of Monday 13 September 2021, a young man, Yves Nshimirimana, a native of the Kigarama hill in Ndava commune of Mwaro province, an agent of the money transfer services Lumicash, Ecocash, Bancobu eNoti and PesaFlash, was shot dead by unidentified criminals in 3rd quarter of Ngagara zone, at the junction of Buconyori and Kanyoni roads, in the Bujumbura city (western Burundi). He was shot by persons in a Toyota Hilux double-cabin van with tinted windows without a number plate, and died of his injuries after being evacuated to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the resurgence of targeted killings in a context of widespread impunity for the alleged perpetrators that, given the modus operandi and the means used by the killers, refers to the countless cases of murder by National Intelligence Service (SNR) agents.

- On the night of Thursday to Friday, 17 September 2021, at around 3 a.m., police officers from the Buraza communal police station shot dead Léonidas Nkurunziza.

SOS Torture Burundi urges investigations to determine the circumstances of these police abuses and to hold the perpetrators accountable to bring justice to the victims.

- On the night of Friday 17 September 2021 at around 7 p.m., unidentified armed criminals shot and killed a woman named Belyse on the Gihinga hill in Kayokwe commune of Mwaro province (central Burundi).

According to sources on the spot, a group of criminals armed with guns attacked the woman, a native of Ruvumu hill in the same commune, who was carrying her baby on her way from the central market of Mwaro. The same sources report that the perpetrators and motives for the crime are not yet known.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the evening of Saturday, 11 September 2021, at around 7 p.m., four (4) people who have not yet been identified were seriously injured by bullets in an ambush laid by a group of armed men against a lorry transporting firewood on Cogo hill, Vyuya zone, Mugamba commune, in Bururi province (southern Burundi).

According to witnesses, three people on board the vehicle, which was completely burnt out, as well as the driver of a motorbike taxi who was passing by at the same time, were seriously injured by bullets and evacuated to a nearby health facility for treatment.

- On the night of Monday 13 September 2021, Aloys Nshimirimana alias Kadoyi was severely tortured by a group of Imbonerakure during a night patrol, 13th transversal of the Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi), who falsely accused him of consuming a prohibited drink.

According to witnesses, four (4) Imbonerakure militia members, led by David Karikunzira nicknamed Muntu, cell leader of Buhomba and leader of the CNDD-FDD [National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy] party in the same locality, Emmanuel alias Maniga, a certain Bigirimana nicknamed Bakweta (leader of the Imbonerakure in the same cell in Buhomba) and a certain Albert alias Gisimba (member of the security staff of the presidency) found Aloys Nshimirimana drinking banana wine called "*urwarwa*" from a cup and violently beat him with a red-hot concrete iron bar, particularly on his buttocks, while accusing him of consuming a prohibited drink called "*umudiring*".

The same sources specify that the victim can no longer sit or walk and that he remains lying in bed in a health care facility where he is receiving treatment.

SOS Torture Burundi urges investigations to stop abuses of Imbonerakure militia men and to bring justice to the victim.

3. Case of abduction

- On the night of Sunday 12 September 2021, at around 9:20 p.m., Eddy Irakoze (34 years old), a former activist of the MSD (Movement for Solidarity and Democracy) party and agent of the Burundian Vigils assigned to the Russian embassy, was abducted from the 3rd avenue of Musaga, Muha commune, in the Bujumbura town hall (West of Burundi), by four (4) men on board an unlicensed white double-cabin van with tinted windows.

According to sources on the spot, these unidentified men, suspected of being SNR, agents carried Eddy Irakoze, a native of the Mugamba commune in Bururi province (south of Burundi) and resident in the Musaga zone, towards an unknown destination.

- On Sunday 12 September 2021, a former member of the Burundian Armed Forces (FAB) known as Méthode Manirambona was abducted by hooded men at the 6th Avenue home of a certain Désiré, in Mtutakura quarter, Cikitoke zone, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura town hall (western Burundi).

According to sources on the spot, hooded soldiers in a military pick-up vehicle entered Désiré's home, took Méthode Manirambona by force and threw him into the vehicle for an unknown destination, after having extorted his telephones.

The same sources reveal that Méthode Manirambona, a retired non-commissioned officer, was abducted by soldiers from the Muzinda Genie camp in Bubanza province (north-western Burundi) and that he is being arbitrarily detained in one of the SNR's dungeons in Bujumbura town hall.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the worrying increase in cases of abduction, which have become the rule for the SNR and the military intelligence service (G2) in terms of arbitrary arrests, and which are always followed by secret detentions or forced disappearances of the victims.



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.