

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 310 PUBLISHED ON 20 NOVEMBER 2021

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 13 to 20 November 2021 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the cases of sixteen (16) people who were seriously injured, including fifteen (15) young pupils injured during a grenade explosion in their classroom, five (5) people who were arbitrarily arrested, including three leaders of the CNL (National Congress for Liberty) party, as well as two (2) people who were abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR).

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Wednesday 17 November 2021, the lifeless body of a young man known as Richard Barekebavuge (26 years old) was found in the Kayongozi River, at the foot of the Nkanda hill in the Kayongozi zone of Bweru commune, in Ruyigi province (eastern Burundi).

According to local sources, Richard Barekebavuge had been missing since 13 November 2021 and his body showed injuries, particularly to the nose and head. The same sources state that the body of the victim was buried the same day on the orders of the local administration.

- On Friday 19 November 2021, the lifeless body of a 19-year-old girl known as Libéline Kamikazi was discovered after 3 days of disappearance on the Rubwika-Kagundu sub-colline of the Muramba zone, in the commune and province of Bubanza (north-west of Burundi).

According to witnesses, the decomposing body of the girl was exhumed after it had been hastily buried by an Imbonerakure named Ndayisenga, a married man and father of 3 children, who had impregnated her; and the family of the victim had demanded that he takes care of her, which he accepted.

The same sources reveal that on the day of her disappearance, 16 November 2021, this Imbonerakure had proposed to the victim to take her to a health centre for a prenatal consultation, but the residents of her locality had not seen her again. Since that day, Ndayisenga, the alleged perpetrator, has been on the run.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the early morning of Wednesday 17 November 2021, at around 5 a.m., a CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activist known as Bahufise (65 years old) was violently beaten with clubs by Imbonerakure on the Ruyobera hill of the Muhuta commune, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi).

According to local sources, the old man was on his way to his field activities when he came across a group of young Imbonerakure armed with clubs in the shape of rifles as they were finishing their paramilitary training session. The same sources reveal that the Imbonerakure led by Vital alias Muyeyeto and among whom some could be identified as Côme Ndayiragije, Busama and a certain Célestin, beat the old man to death and pierced him with a spear before leaving. The victim was evacuated to the Muhuta health centre for emergency treatment and remains in bed.

- On the morning of Thursday 18 November 2021, at around 10 a.m., 15 pupils were injured, five of them seriously, as a result of a grenade explosion that took place in a classroom in the first year of primary school at Muramba III of Buhinyuza commune, in Muyinga province (north-east Burundi).

According to sources from the school, a pupil known as Schadrack Mugisha, whose father is a former CNDD-FDD fighter, had brought two grenades to the school and placed them at the back of his classroom, away from his desk. During break time, while he was playing in the courtyard, pupils were playing with one of the grenades, which exploded, injuring 15 children, five of whom were in a serious condition. They were evacuated to Muyinga hospital for medical treatment.

The same sources said that Schadrack Mugisha had found the two explosive devices at his parents' home and that his father had fled immediately after learning of the incident. The schoolboy was arrested by the police for investigation and the second unexploded grenade was taken away by the same police.

3. Violations of the right to liberty: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- Since the night of last Friday, 12 November 2021, at around 10 p.m., a man known as Gabriel Manirambona was violently arrested at his parents' home by police officers accompanied by Imbonerakure on Gahweza hill in Kiganda commune of Muramvya province (central Burundi)

According to local sources, the victim was taken to the provincial police station in Muramvya, but the reasons for his arrest remain unknown.

The same sources specified that Gabriel Manirambona had come to visit his family and that he had just returned from Kenya where he has been living for several years.

- On the morning of Tuesday 16 November 2021 at around 5 a. m., Jean Baptiste Mpawenayo, the brother-in-law of Agathon Rwaswa, president of the CNL party, was arrested at his home located in Ngagara zone of Ntahangwa commune, in Bujumbura town hall (western Burundi).

According to witnesses, SNR (National Intelligence Service) agents led by OPC1 Alexis Ndayikengurukiye alias Nkoroka broke into Jean Baptiste Mpawenayo's

home to search every nook and cranny of his house, but without finding anything incriminating. No reason for his arrest was given to his family members.

- On the night of Tuesday 16 November 2021 at around 8 p.m., the treasurer of the CNL party in the commune of Isale in Bujumbura province (western Burundi), Augustin Matata, was arrested without a warrant in a bistro belonging to a certain Gordien located on the hill and zone of Buringa, in the commune and province of Bubanza (north-west Burundi).

According to witnesses, Augustin Matata was violently arrested and tortured on the 6th transversal of Buringa hill and zone by OPC1 Venant Miburo, the provincial head of the SNR in Bubanza, accompanied by police officers, and was taken away in a white double-cabin vehicle registered E0540A of the SNR to an unknown destination. The same sources state that Mr Augustin Matata was arrested with the complicity of Léonard Ndayishimiye, the leader of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party on Buringa hill, and young Imbonerakure from the same party.

- On the morning of Wednesday 17 November 2021 at around 6 a. m., three police officers and an SNR agent known as Mathias Nduwimana nicknamed Athia arrested Emmanuel Matata, a leader of the CNL party in the province of Bujmbura, at a few meters from his home located on Muyange I hill in Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi).

According to witnesses, Emmanuel Matata was arrested on his way to work. He was taken away in a blackish double-cabin van, registration number D3974A, believed to be from the SNR, to an unknown destination.

The same sources say that a few minutes later, police officers returned in the same vehicle and a pick-up truck to Emmanuel Matata's home for a search and

seizure session lasting about an hour, after which they also took away his wife, Joselyne Inamahoro.

4. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On the morning of Wednesday 17 November 2021 at around 8:30 a. m., a CNL party official known as Mathias Ruramusura and at the same time a teacher at the CFPP (Training and Professional Perfection Centre) in Nyakabiga was abducted from his home by an SNR agent called Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu and driven to an unknown destination.
- On the afternoon of Saturday 20 November 2021, at around 3 p.m., Ms. Béatrice Nyamoya, an agent of the General State Inspectorate, was abducted by SNR agents at Bujumbura airport, as she was getting off the plane.

According to witnesses, Béatrice Nyamoya was taken away in an SNR pick-up truck to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes with concern that in view of the untenable situation of systematic human rights violations committed by state agents and members of the Imbonerakure youth league of the CNDD-FDD party, which has been in power for more than 20 years, the international community is gradually and inexplicably lifting the sanctions against the regime, which continues to commit crimes against humanity, instead of putting more pressure on the Burundian authorities to respect human rights throughout the country.



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.