

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 311 PUBLISHED ON 27 NOVEMBER 2021

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 20 to 27 November 2021 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least four (4) people were assassinated during this period in different localities of the country.

The report also deplores the case of two (2) CNL (National Congress for Liberty) party activists who were arbitrarily arrested in Kirundo province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the evening of Tuesday 23 November 2021, the decomposing body of Christian Ndayiziga was discovered near the Rusizi River by fishermen on Mparambo I hill in Rugombo commune of Cibitoke province (northwestern Burundi).

According to witnesses, the body of Christian Ndayiziga showed wounds proving that he had been killed with a machete.

The same sources revealed that Christian Ndayiziga had disappeared since last Friday, 19 November 2021, after answering a phone call from an individual who invited him to pick up his package from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The local administrator of Rugombo ordered the burial of the victim's body without opening an investigation to identify the perpetrators of his murder.

- On Wednesday 24 November 2021, the body of a man known as Saidi Murengerantwari was discovered at Murembwe river mouth in Kanyenkoko district of Gatete zone, in Rumonge commune and province (south-west of Burundi).

According to local sources, Saidi Murengerantwari was detained in the central prison of Murembwe and had been missing since 16 November 2021. The circumstances of his disappearance as well as those of his assassination remain uncertain.

- On the morning of Thursday 25 November 2021, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was found by farmers on their way to their fields on Gisovu hill, in Kiyenzi zone of Kanyosha commune, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi).

According to witnesses, the body, wearing blue shorts and an orange T-shirt, was decapitated, its arms were bound and it had bullet holes in its chest. According to the same sources, the body was buried immediately on the orders of the local administration without an investigation to identify the victim and the perpetrators.

- On the night of Thursday 25 November 2021 at around 7:30 p.m., an old man known as Jean Rudakemwa, aged over 70, was murdered by unknown individuals on Gakerekwa hill, in Butahana zone of Mabayi commune, in Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi) as he was returning home after finishing his day's work at his commercial kiosk.

According to local sources, Jean Rudakemwa was killed on suspicion of witchcraft, as he had barely escaped from an unidentified person armed with a gun who wanted to kill him a few days earlier.

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

- Since last Friday, 19 November 2021, Adrien Nayubusa alias Mukizwa and Jean Marie Nsengiyumva, two activists of the CNL (National Congress for Liberty) party, have been arbitrarily arrested by the police, together with members of the Imbonerakure youth league, in Mukenke quarter of Bwambarangwe commune, in

Kirundo province (northern Burundi), on the orders of CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party officials and were taken the same day to the local police cells in Bwambarangwe.

According to local sources, Adrien Nayubusa, head of the Mukenke quarter, had been invited the day before to the closing ceremonies of the week dedicated to CNDD-FDD fighters, during which local CNDD-FDD officials declared that he had just joined their party. However, when they gave him the floor to speak, Adrien Nayubusa had publicly stated that he had only come to the ceremonies in his administrative quality but that he did not intend to abandon his CNL party. This attitude did not please the local CNDD-FDD leaders who ordered his arrest and that of Jean Marie Nsengiyumva, his political comrade, under the pretext of Whatsapp messages that they had exchanged.

The same sources reveal that the two men have been arbitrarily detained at the Kirundo prosecutor's office since Tuesday 23 November 2021.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the political intolerance of certain members of the CNDD-FDD party towards activists of opposition parties and calls on the country's authorities to guarantee every citizen's right to political freedom in a context of mutual respect.



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.