

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 318 PUBLISHED ON 15 JANUARY 2022**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 8 to 15 January 2022 concerning 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 one (1) young activist of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party who was arbitrarily arrested by agents of the SNR (National Intelligence Service) in Bubanza province and of another CNL activist who was abducted by police officers in Bujumbura town hall.

### **1. Violations of the right to life**

- On the morning of Sunday 10 January 2022, at around 8.30 am, the lifeless body of Jérémie Ntahonca was found in the Gahuni forest located on the Kayombe hill in the Bugarama zone and commune of Rumonge province (south-west of Burundi).

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the body of the victim, who was a native of the same hill, showed injuries. The perpetrators and circumstances of this murder remain unknown.

- On 10 January 2022, the lifeless body of a young soldier known as Vianney Nahimana, aged 24, was found lying near the Kayokwe River in Mwaro province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, Vianney Nahimana, a student at the military paramedical school in his third year, assigned to the logistics brigade camp in Bujumbura town hall, had requested a leave on Sunday 9 January to go to Mugongo-Manga commune, his native commune. The same sources said that the body of the victim showed traces of strangulation and that the identity of perpetrators and the circumstances of the murder have not been clarified.

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

On the morning of Friday 14 January 2022, at around 10 a.m., a young activist of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party known as Hugor Mugisha was arrested by SNR (National Intelligence Service) agents at the 10th transversal in the Buringa zone of the Gihanga commune, in Bubanza province (northwestern Burundi).

According to witnesses, the young activist was arrested after a search of his parents' home, but no incriminating objects were found during the operation. Although the reasons for his arrest have not been communicated to him, those close to Hugor Mugisha suspect links with the case of a nurse in his family, Beatrice Nizigama, who was also arrested by SNR agents on 29 December 2021 for expressing her opinion on the death of Augustin Matata following acts of torture inflicted on him at the SNR headquarters.

## **3. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance**

- On 12 January 2022, a CNL party activist known as Jean Paul Nzikororiho was abducted in the Kamesa quarter of the Musaga zone, Muha commune, in Bujumbura town hall (western Burundi) by two uniformed police officers and taken to an unknown destination.



According to witnesses, Jean Paul Nzikoruriho, a native of Gisovu hill, Kiyenzi zone, Kanyosha commune, in Bujumbura province, was abducted while having a drink in a bistro located at a place called Bonesha. Two police officers arrived in a double-cabin van and forced him to get into the van before driving away. His family members searched for him in the official police dungeons, but to no avail.

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.

SOS