

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 320 PUBLISHED ON 29 JANUARY 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 29 January to 5 February 2022 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the case of two (2) activists who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in Rumonge province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the morning of Sunday 30 January 2022, a 4-year-old albino child known as Abdoul Igiraneza was kidnapped by unidentified men in Kinama quarter of Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura city (west of Burundi) before being taken away on a motorbike towards for commune of Kigamba, in Cankuzo province (east of Burundi), where he was atrociously murdered using machetes and knives.

According to witnesses, two alleged perpetrators, together with three motorcyclists who were transporting them, were apprehended on Monday 31 January 2022 in possession of a bag containing the amputated body of the victim's arms and legs, after having been denounced by a child who was herding goats in the Ruvubu nature reserve. They were taken to the provincial police station in Cankuzo for investigations while the third criminal who escaped is being actively sought by the police.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that, among the alleged perpetrators, two men were tried and sentenced in a flagrante delicto trial that took place in Cankuzo on the afternoon of Friday 4 February 2021. The High Court of Cankuzo sentenced

Médard Ndayizeye to life imprisonment and 40 million in damages to be paid to the child's mother, for abducting, killing and cutting up a 4-year-old albino child. It also sentenced Augustin Seshahu to 20 years' penal servitude and 20 million in damages for facilitating the transport of the abducted child on his motorbike.

- On the night of Friday 4 February 2022, a night watchman called Adelin Hakizimana, aged 63, was killed by unidentified armed robbers on the Muhweza hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, in Karusi province (central-eastern Burundi).

According to local sources, the robbers found the watchman in a shop, immobilised and blindfolded him and stole several items including beer crates and five hundred thousand Burundian francs (500,000 Fbu) before killing him instantly.

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

- Since 23 January 2022, two CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activists known respectively as Marie Nintunze, the party's communal representative in Bugarama commune, and Venant Manirakiza have been arbitrarily arrested and detained at the provincial police station in Rumonge (south-western Burundi) before being transferred to the central prison in Murembwe, in the capital of the province.

According to local sources, the two activists are suspected of collaborating with the rebel movement RED-Tabara (Resistance for the Rule of Law in 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.