

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 327 PUBLISHED ON 19 MARCH 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 12 to 19 March 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least five (5) people were murdered during this period in different parts of the country.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Sunday 13 March 2022, a woman known as Agnès Nahishakiye, nicknamed Shakiye, was murdered by her husband, Jean de Dieu Niyonsaba, on Buramata hill, in the Gihanga zone and commune of Bubanza province (north-west Burundi).

According to local sources, Jean de Dieu Niyonsaba, aged 26 and an activist of the Imbonerakure youth league of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy), slit his wife's throat in the marital home as they were returning late at night from a local bistro and went himself the next morning to the provincial police station in Bubanza to escape popular vindication.

The same sources said that Jean de Dieu Niyonsaba was tried in a flagrante delicto trial by the Bubanza Intermediate Court and sentenced to 20 years' penal servitude for the murder of his wife and ordered to pay ten million Burundian francs (10,000,000 Fbu) to the in-laws in damages.

- On Tuesday 15 March 2022, the lifeless body of a man known as Albert Niyomucamanza was discovered in the morgue of the Prince Regent Charles

Hospital located in the Buyenzi zone of the Mukaza commune, in the Bujumbura city (western Burundi).

According to local sources, Albert Niyomucamanza, a former soldier of the Burundian armed forces (FAB) and converted to the CNDD-FDD party, was killed in an undisclosed location before his body was taken to the morgue in circumstances that are still unclear. He had disappeared since last Sunday, 13 March, after leaving his home in the Buterere zone, in the urban commune of Ntahangwa in the economic capital Bujumbura, to attend a meeting that was to be held in the Kamenge zone. Since that day, his family members had been looking for him in all the dungeons of the city of Bujumbura without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to determine the circumstances and identify the perpetrators of the murder in order to bring them to justice. It regrets that the bodies of previously missing persons are found in a morgue of a public health institution and recalls that this body is the second discovered in the morgue of this public hospital in the space of only two weeks.

- In the early morning of Friday 18 March 2022, the lifeless body of Jean Marie Mpawenimana, aged about 50, was discovered by farmers lying on a path on the Munyika II hill in Rugombo commune of Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi). The perpetrators of the crime have not been identified.

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the local administration was quickly alerted and the police came to transport the mortal remains of the victim from the same hill of Munyika II to the morgue of Cibitoke hospital.

- On Friday 18 March 2022, the lifeless body of Claude Nsengiyumva, aged 40 and working in a gold mining site, was found lying in a banana plantation on the Gisaba hill of Buhindo zone, in Murwi commune of Cibitoke province.



According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, the body of the victim, who was last seen in a local bistro, had several wounds on the neck, suggesting that she had been killed by strangulation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for impartial investigations to uncover the perpetrators of these crimes and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Friday 18 March 2022, the lifeless body of a man known as Matthieu Ntibasarira was found on the Nyaruvunji hill in the commune of Mugamba of Bururi province (southern Burundi).

According to local sources, Matthieu Ntibasarira, an ex-FAB and OTB (Burundi Tea Board) retired from Nyatubuye hill in the same commune, had disappeared since last Saturday 12 March and his family had searched everywhere without success.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations taking place in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced 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 police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected areas are said to be contesting the third term of President Nkurunziza, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the centre of Bujumbura city.