

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 328 PUBLISHED ON 26 MARCH 2022**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 19 to 26 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 morning of Sunday 20 March 2022 at around 5 a.m., the lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered in a cotton field by farmers on the Miduha sub-hill of Rukana II hill, in Rugombo commune of Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the body was lying in a pool of blood still fresh and very close to the body were young Imbonerakure of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) led by the communal leader of the league of young Imbonerakure who took the body on a wooden stretcher to an unknown destination. The same sources believe that this man, who was returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was killed by these Imbonerakure who hastened to make his body disappear in order to cover up any possible police investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to find the perpetrators of this murder and bring them to justice.

- In the early morning of Monday 21 March 2022, an unnamed student on his way to the Musaga Municipal High School located in Muha commune of Bujumbura city (western Burundi), was shot dead at 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue Musaga following scuffles between police agents and motorcyclists who wanted to defy the ban on access of tricycles

(tuk-tuk), motorbikes and bicycles to certain areas of the economic capital, Bujumbura

According to witnesses, a fight broke out between a policeman and motorcyclists who wanted to cross the prohibited line and other police agents fired four bullets that hit a student who was among the spectators of the scene and who succumbed to his injuries after being evacuated to one of the health facilities in Bujumbura.

- On the night of Monday 21 March 2022 at around 10 p.m., a 38-year-old cow seller known as Innocent Njebarikanuye was shot dead at his home by a group of unidentified criminals on Mahonda hill, in the commune and province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the criminals broke into the victim's home and shot him dead before taking an unknown amount of money and mobile phones.

The same sources said that a man known as Fulgence Itangishaka was arrested the same night just after the incident and taken to the provincial police station in Gitega for investigation.

- On 21 March 2022, the lifeless body of Jean Miburo, a sentry who was watching over a palm oil extraction machine, was found on the Dondi hill in Musigati zone and commune of Bubanza the province (north-western Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim had been abducted the previous evening by unknown individuals who killed her by strangulation.

- On Wednesday 23 March 2022, the lifeless body of a young trader and currency exchange trader known as Vianney Iragateka was found in a house in Kigobe quarter of Gihosha zone of Ntahangwa commune, in the north of the economic capital Bujumbura (western Burundi).

According to local sources, Vianney Iragateka, a native of the Mika hill in the commune and province of Rutana (south-east Burundi), had disappeared the previous day, Tuesday 22 March, at around 2 p.m., after answering a telephone call from individuals he had been in contact with, who asked him to come and meet them at a transit house to exchange money. His body was found tied up with his arms behind his back and bathed in a pool of blood.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the country's competent authorities to quickly launch a thorough and impartial investigation, which would not be difficult to carry out if the police and the judiciary had the firm will to put an end to the impunity that plagues the Burundian judicial system.

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.