

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 329 PUBLISHED ON 2 APRIL 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 26 March to 2 April 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least six (6) people were murdered and one (1) seriously injured by gunfire during this period in different localities of the country.

The report also deplores the cases of two (2) people were arbitrarily arrested and detained and that of a CNL party activist who was abducted by the SNR leader in Cibitoke province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the morning of Sunday 27 March 2022, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered by farmers on their way to their fields on the Rubuye sub-hill, Mparambo I hill in the commune of Rugombo of the Cibitoke province (northwestern Burundi).

According to local sources, the unidentified man was murdered by young Imbonerakure (a youth league of the ruling CNDD-FDD party) on night patrol because the residents of the locality where his body was found heard the victim's cries of distress but were afraid to intervene during the night

- On the night of Sunday 27 March 2022 at around 8 p.m., the lifeless body of a young man named Jean Claude Ndayahande, aged 29, was found in a small bush located on the Nyakinyovu hill in the zone, commune and province of Cankuzo (eastern Burundi).

According to local sources, Jean Claude Ndayahande had been seen the same evening in a bistro on the same hill and his body showed head injuries.

- On the night of Tuesday 28 March 2022 at around 7 p.m., a man in his forties known as Venant Ciza was found murdered on the Gisuma hill in the commune of Mwakiro of the Muyinga province (north-east Burundi).

According to local sources, Venant Ciza, a native of from Rusheri hill in the same commune of Mwakiro, had spent the evening in a bistro located in the market of Kanyange hill, in Buhiga commune of Karusi province (central-eastern Burundi).

- On 28 March 2022, the lifeless body of Leonidas Mudende, aged 53, was found in the Rumpungwe River, not far from the chief town of Gisuru commune, in Ruyigi province (eastern Burundi).

According to witnesses, the body of Léonidas Mudende, a teacher at the Nyabigozi Communal High School and leader of the FNL (National Liberation Forces) party of Jacques Bigirimana in Gisuru commune, had wounds on his arms and his perpetrators had amputated his tongue and genitals. The same sources stated that the victim was on bad terms with the Imbonerakure of the locality and that he had disappeared since Wednesday evening, 23 March 2022, after having answered a telephone call from a person not yet identified who had pretended to be his friend.

- On the night of 1^{er} April 2022, a young man named Egide Nzeyimana, aged 26, was killed with machetes by unidentified criminals as he was returning to his home on the Kibati hill, Masango zone, Bukinanyana commune, in Cibitoke province (north-west of Burundi).
- On the night of Saturday 2 April 2022, Reverend Pastor Gordien Niyonkuru, legal representative of a branch of the Eusebu (Church for the Unity of the Holy Spirit in Burundi), was assassinated by an unidentified man in Burundian army uniform at

his home in the Ruziba quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, in Bujumbura city (western Burundi).

According to witnesses, a man in military uniform who was waiting for him in front of his house shot Gordien Niyonkuru at point blank range as he parked his vehicle and died immediately while his guest from the United States of America was seriously injured by several bullets in his stomach and was admitted to a hospital in the commercial capital where he is receiving treatment.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores a resurgence of cases of intentional homicide committed in the context of almost general impunity and calls on the judicial, police and administrative authorities to carry out serious investigations to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

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

- In the early hours of Wednesday 30 March 2022, at around 5 a.m., policemen from the police station in Rutana arbitrarily arrested Souavis Ndayisenga, a teacher from Nyarubere primary school, at her home on the Karindo hill, in the commune and province of Rutana (south-east of Burundi) and took her to the judicial police cells in Rutana.

According to witnesses, several policemen arrived at the home of her husband, Gilbert Sinamenye, a teacher at Mwayi primary school in the same commune and province of Rutana, with the intention of arresting the teacher, but they did not find him there. Curiously and against all the rules of law, these policemen arrested the young pregnant woman and mother of three children and left with her without presenting her with a judicial warrant.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the arbitrary arrests committed by law enforcement officials and recalls the sacred principle of personal responsibility in

criminal matters by virtue of which no one can be held responsible for the act committed by another.

- On the night of Wednesday 30 March 2022 at around 7 p.m., Dr Christophe Sahabo, Director General of Kira Hospital/Swiss Clinic, was arrested without a warrant at his office by agents of the SNR (National Intelligence Service).

According to local sources, the reason for his arrest was not revealed, but Dr Christophe Sahabo was released by the SNR on Saturday 2 April 2022, in the early evening, after having been forced to resign the day before his arrest by police colonel Alfred Innocent Museremu.

3. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- In the afternoon of Wednesday 30 March 2022 at around 4 p.m., a CNL (National Congress for Liberty) party activist known as Marc Niyonahabonye was abducted by the head of the SNR (National intelligence Service) in Cibitoke province on the Rugajo hill of Mugina commune, in the same province.

According to witnesses, Marc Niyonahabonye was first arbitrarily arrested a few minutes earlier by Imbonerakure youths and was then taken away in the vehicle of the SNR official in Cibitoke, Police Colonel Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya, to an unknown destination. The family searched in vain for him in all the dungeons of Cibitoke.

SOS-Torture Burundi fears that the abduction of Marc Niyonahabonyene will later turn into an enforced disappearance, as the alleged perpetrator, Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya, is widely cited in reports by civil society organisations.



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 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.