

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 330 PUBLISHED ON 9 APRIL 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 2 to 9 April 2022 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the case of one (1) CNL party activist who was abducted by the head of the SNR in Cibitoke province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the morning of Sunday 3 April 2022, farmers on their way to their fields discovered two bodies of men tied up on the 4th transversal of the Ndava hill and zonz, Buganda commune, in Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi).

According to witnesses to the dismal discovery, the bodies of these men, who were not identified in the locality, were lying in a pool of still fresh blood and were tied up with a rope. These bodies were hastily buried on the same day under the orders of the Buganda communal administrator and without prior investigation to identify the victims and perpetrators of this double crime.

Residents near the scene of the crime confirm that they saw a pickup van driven by the head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Cibitoke, police colonel Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya, whom they suspect of being the perpetrator of the double murder.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the phenomenon of lifeless bodies of people killed presumably by security agents and abandoned in the wild, especially in the province

of Cibitoke, which has become a veritable cemetery. It calls for independent and impartial investigations to identify the perpetrators of these crimes and bring them to justice, with a view to curbing this criminal phenomenon that has become endemic.

- In the afternoon of Sunday 3 April 2022, Pastor Salvator Nzambimana, legal representative of EUSEBU (Church for the Unity of the Holy Spirit in Burundi) in the United States of America, who was seriously injured during the attack on Pastor Jean Gordien Niyungeko (legal representative of EUSEBU in Burundi) who was shot dead on the night of Saturday 2 April 2022 at his home in the locality of Ruziba in the town hall of Bujumbura, succumbed to his injuries after being admitted to a hospital in the commercial capital Bujumbura.

SOS-Torture Burundi notes that this double assassination is part of a leadership crisis within this EUSEBU religious congregation that has been ongoing since November 2021.

- On 8 April 2022, the decomposing body of Ferdinand Kabura was discovered on the Murambi hill in the Buruhukiro zone, in the commune and province of Rumonge (southwestern Burundi).

According to local sources, Ferdinand Kabura was a native of the Gasanda zone in the commune and province of Bururi, in southern Burundi. The perpetrators and circumstances of the crime have not been identified.

- On Wednesday 6 April 2022, the lifeless body of Claver Nzeyimana, aged 56, was discovered in a small bush near his home on the Kanyami hill in the commune of Kiganda of Muramvya province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim's body had been decapitated and one arm amputated. The motives and perpetrators of the crime have not been identified.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On 7 April 2022, a CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activist known as Richard Ntihabose was abducted in the capital of Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi) by the provincial head of the SNR (National intelligence Service) in that province.

According to local sources, the reason for his abduction is not yet known and his family members have searched in vain in all the dungeons of Cibitoke province.

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.