

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 331 PUBLISHED ON 16 APRIL 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 9 to 16 April 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least four (4) people were seriously injured during this period in different parts of the country.

The report also deplores the case of eight (8) people from the same family who were arbitrarily arrested and detained by provincial police and National Intelligence Service (SNR) officials in Makamba province.

1. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the morning of Tuesday 12 April 2022, a Burundian national police agent, who has not yet been identified, shot and injured two people, a bicycle taxi driver and his client, in the Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke zone, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura city (western Burundi).

According to witnesses, the taxi-bike driver was accused of parking his bike right next to the line demarcating the area off-limits to bicycles, motorbikes and tricycles (commonly known as tuk-tuk) and of frequently crossing the area off-limits to these machines.

The same sources revealed that this policeman has a habit of racketeering bicycle taxi drivers and that he tried to withdraw money from the victim's pocket by force before shooting him in the left leg at close range.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police authorities to punish, in accordance with the law, the perpetrator of the disproportionate use of force and to instruct police

personnel to respect the [Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials](#).

- On the night of Tuesday 12 April 2022, at around 7.30 p.m., a motorbike taxi driver named Libère Nduwayezu was seriously injured in the head by unidentified clients he was transporting in village 5 of the zone and commune of Gihanga, in Bubanza province (north-west of Burundi).

According to local sources, the two criminals hit him on the head with a used hoe and left him for dead before stealing his motorbike and driving it to an unknown destination. Libère Nduwayezu was evacuated to Gihanga hospital for treatment.

- On the night of Wednesday 13 April 2022, at around 8 p.m., a young activist of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) known as Sigisi was seriously injured by members of the Imbonerakure youth league of the ruling party during a clash between activists of the two parties on the Murengeza hill in Mpanda commune of Bubanza province. The victim is hospitalised in a serious condition at the general hospital of Mpanda.

According to witnesses, electoral fraud surrounding the election of peer educators to the management committee of the Murengeza health centre, orchestrated by militants of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy- Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party with a view to excluding the members of the CNL from this committee, was at the origin of these clashes. The same sources state that the police had to intervene to restore order by firing bullets into the air.

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

- On the morning of Saturday 9 April 2022, eight (8) members of the same family, including the head of the household and his wife, were arbitrarily arrested at their

home by provincial police and National Intelligence Service (SNR) officials on the Mbizi hill in Kibago commune of Makamba province (southern Burundi).

According to witnesses, police colonel Emmanuel Manariyo, provincial police commissioner in Makamba, and Michel Ndikuriyo, head of the SNR in the same province, burst into the victims' home, accompanied by several policemen, and initially searched the house from top to bottom without a warrant, without finding any incriminating objects. In the end, they arrested all eight victims on unsubstantiated charges of collaboration with armed gangs, including a couple with a mother of a baby less than a year old and a three-year-old who had been separated from her two small children.

The same sources revealed that all eight persons arbitrarily arrested were taken to the dungeon of the communal police station in Makamba where they are being held.

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.