

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 332 PUBLISHED ON 23 APRIL 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 16 to 23 April 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered and three (3) others were seriously injured during this period in different parts of the country.

The report also deplores the case of fifteen (15) people who were arrested and detained arbitrarily, including 14 CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activists detained in the police cell in Bubanza.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Saturday 16 April 2022, a policeman by the name of Jean de Dieu Uwimana died in Kirundo hospital as a result of injuries suffered in a grenade attack by an unidentified perpetrator in a hotel bar called Alpha Hotel in the Kavogero quarter, in the commune and province of Kirundo (northern Burundi).

According to witnesses, the perpetrator took advantage of a fight in this hotel bar to drop a grenade that seriously injured three policemen and the barman who was slightly injured. One of the policemen, Jean de Dieu Uwimana, died just after arriving at the hospital with head injuries, while the other three injured are receiving treatment in the same hospital.

- On the morning of Tuesday 19 April 2022, two lifeless bodies were found in the Gatunguru quarter, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, people going for sports were able to identify one of the bodies, Constantin Ndikumana, a cell leader in Gatunguru and father of four. His body was naked at the time of discovery and showed injuries to his throat, suggesting he had been strangled, and other injuries to his back, pelvic girdle and hips. According to his relatives, he had left his home at around 7p.m. on a phone call, after explaining to his wife that he was going to talk to someone in Kamenge.

According to the same sources, the second body could not be identified, but the population of the locality agrees that it is that of a pastor of a Pentecostal church in Gatunguru. The body was found in a gutter separating the Gatunguru quarter from the Carama quarter in the Kinama zone. The motives and perpetrators of this double murder have not yet been identified.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for impartial and thorough investigations to identify the perpetrators of the double murder and bring them to justice.

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

- For more than three weeks, Anatole Hakizimana, a resident of the Ndava quarter in the urban centre of the commune and province of Cankuzo (eastern Burundi), has been arbitrarily detained at the National Intelligence Service (SNR).

According to local sources, Anatole Hakizimana was arrested on 1st April 2022 at his home by SNR agents assigned to the province of Cankuzo and spent five days of arbitrary detention in the dungeon of the home of the provincial intelligence officer, Venant Ndayishimiye, who accused him of collaboration with armed gangs, without any proof.

According to the same sources, Anatole Hakizimana was transferred on 5 April to the SNR dungeons in Bujumbura where he remains arbitrarily detained, deprived of any right to visits by his relatives.

- Since last Friday, 15 April 2022, fourteen (14) members of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party on the Murengeza hill, in Mpanda commune of Bubanza province (north-west of Burundi), were arrested by police officers in complicity with members of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party, including Jean Claude Murwanashaka (communal secretary of the CNDD-FDD in the commune of Mpanda), Eric (leader of the Imbonerakure in the commune of Mpanda) and Emmanuel Ndayiragije (leader of the Murengeza hill). They are being held in the police lock-up in Mpanda. They are Désiré Niyonsaba, Jean Bosco Habimana, Innocent Hakizimana, Vianney Kwizerimana, Gabriel Butoyi, Jean Claude Havyarimana, Gaspard Niyonkuru, Jules Ndiwokubwayo, Chadrack Niyonkuru, Jean Paul Bigirimana, Dieudonné Havyarimana, Zebron Ngendakumana, Jacques Ntikiribera and Yves Nsavyimana.

According to local sources, these arbitrary arrests of CNL members follow an electoral fraud decried by CNL activists around the election of peer educators members of the management committee of the Murengeza health centre orchestrated last Wednesday, April 13, by CNDD-FDD party activists in order to exclude CNL members. The same sources reveal that six other members of the CNL, namely Eric Manirambona, Meschack Butoyi, Faustin Nduwarugira, Dieudonné Irakoze, Apollinaire Ngendabanyikwa and Ernest Bakundukize, are still actively sought by the police and are living in hiding for fear of being arrested at any moment.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the renewed political intolerance of members of the CNDD-FDD towards activists of opposition political parties, with the complicity of the Burundi National Police, which has never assimilated the apolitical character



of its members under the relevant provisions contained in Articles 250 and 262 of the constitution in force in 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.