

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 334 PUBLISHED ON 7 MAY 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 30 April to 7 May 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.

The report also deplores the case of two (2) activists of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL) who were arrested and arbitrarily detained when they went to lodge a complaint against a group of Imbonerakure who had assaulted them and stolen money from them in Kayogoro commune.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the morning of Sunday 1st May 2022, five decomposing lifeless bodies were discovered by forest guards in the Kibira forest, on Bihembe hill in Bumba zone of Bukinanyana commune, in Cibitoke province (northwestern Burundi), not far from the border with Rwanda.

According to local sources, the five bodies were buried on site on the orders of the local administrator without any investigation to identify them.

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

- Two CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activists, Lucien Sakubu and his brother René Niyongirako, have been in detention in the Gatwe police cells since the morning of Tuesday 3 May 2022.

According to local sources, the two brothers were arrested by an officer of the judicial police at the Gatwe police station in Kayogoro commune of Makamba province (southern Burundi), on the orders of the administrator of the commune of Kayogoro, Antoine Ndayiragije, when they had gone to lodge a complaint against a group of Imbonerakure for assault and theft of money.

According to witnesses, the two CNL activists were ambushed by a group of Imbonerakure youths led by the chief of Nyantakara hill in Bigina zone in the same commune, Fanuel Ndayishimiye, on the night of 2 May 2022 at around 10 p.m. and robbed of a sum of money of three hundred thousand Burundian francs (300,000 Fbu).

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the resurgence political intolerance of members of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) towards activists of opposition parties, particularly those of the CNL, and calls for the immediate release of Lucien Sakubu and his brother René Niyongirako, who are being arbitrarily detained. It also condemns the violation with impunity of the right to fair access to justice and the interference of the administration in the functioning of justice.



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.