

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 335 PUBLISHED ON 14 MAY 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 7 to 14 May 2022 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the cases of three (3) CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activists who were arbitrarily arrested by the head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Muyinga province and one (1) STAMM Foundation worker in the same province who has been missing for ten days after being abducted by SNR agents.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the morning of Monday 9 May 2022, a decomposing lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered floating on the waters of the Maragarazazi River on the Muterama sub-colline of Mbizi hill, bordering the United Republic of Tanzania, in Kibago commune of Makamba province (southern Burundi).

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the body of the victim was naked and had serious wounds in the mouth. They believe that the victim was among Burundians returning from Tanzania as part of their seasonal work in that country.

- On the evening of Tuesday 10 May 2022, the lifeless body of a 9-year-old child known as Fabrice Iteriteka was discovered lying in a banana plantation on the Gihororo hill of Gatara commune, in Kayanza province (northern Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, Fabrice Iteriteka was killed by strangulation by people who had not yet been identified while his mother was away at a cherry coffee washing station near their home.

- On the morning of Thursday 12 May 2022, the lifeless body of a woman named Aline Ndayikomeyamashi was found on the Gasenyi hill, in Kigwati II quarter of Buganda commune, in Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi).

According to witnesses, the body of Aline Ndayikomeyamashi, a mother of two and a small-scale sweet potato trader, was discovered by farmers on their way to their fields. They say that the woman was first raped by her killers before being murdered.

According to the same source, the victim's remains were taken to Cibitoke hospital for autopsy.

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

- On Saturday 7 May 2022, three CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activists were arbitrarily arrested in different locations in the capital of Muyinga province (north-east Burundi) and taken by the head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in this province, police colonel Félix Havyarimana, to an unknown destination.

According to witnesses, the first two CNL activists, Evariste Hakizimana and Cyriaque Rwaswa, were arrested on Saturday afternoon as they were returning from their services. Evariste Hakizimana, who had been repatriated from Tanzania since November last year, was arrested at his home in the Kinyota quarter in the capital of Muyinga province, while Cyriaque Rwaswa, a teacher at the Kaze Kibondo basic school in the Rugari zone of the same province, was arrested on his way

home in Muyinga town. The third CNL activist, Dieudonné Nibaruta, the party's provincial ideology and propaganda officer, was arrested at his home in the Swahili quarter around 11 p.m.

The same sources said that all three CNL activists were arrested without a warrant or summons by the same SNR official in Muyinga and that they were taken away in his service vehicle with the registration number E0535A to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the recurrent human rights violations committed by SNR agents with total impunity and with the support or acquiescence of the public authorities.

3. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- Claver Kantungeko, an inhabitant of the Kinyami neighbourhood in the capital of Ngozi province (northern Burundi), has been missing for ten days after being abducted by SNR agents in Ngozi.

According to witnesses, Claver Kantungeko, an agent of the STAMM Foundation in Ngozi, was arrested on 2 May 2022 by SNR agents led by Pascal Ciza and taken to an unknown destination.

According to the same source, Claver Kantungeko's wife, Perpétue Nizigiyimana, went the next day to the SNR office in Ngozi to inquire about her husband's fate but, curiously, instead of granting her request, she was in turn arrested and transferred the same day to the judicial police cell in Ngozi, after being accused without proof of being involved in her husband's disappearance.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the flagrant violations of human rights by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) which are always endorsed by the



country's authorities, even at a high level, thus making the SNR a sanctuary of impunity 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.