

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 336 PUBLISHED ON 21 MAY 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 14 to 21 May 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the morning of Monday 16 May 2022, the lifeless body of Dieudonné Gutabara was discovered in the precincts of the Municipal High School of Ngagara located in quarter VII of the Ngagara zone, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura city (western Burundi).

According to local sources, the perpetrators and motive for the murder of Dieudonné Gutabara, a native of the commune and province of Muramvya (central Burundi), have not been identified and the body was evacuated by the police to a morgue in a health facility in Bujumbura.

- On the morning of Monday 16 May 2022, the lifeless body of Fabien Ndhokubwayo was discovered near an Islamic school commonly known as "Jumuiya", in the Bururi quarter of the Kinama zone, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura city (western Burundi).

According to local sources, the perpetrators and the motive for the murder of Fabien Ndhokubwayo, a native of the commune of Rugazi in Bubanza province (north-western Burundi), have not been identified and the body was evacuated by the police to a morgue in a health facility in the city of Bujumbura.

- On Monday 16 May 2022, a young man known as Fulgence Hakizimana, aged 35, succumbed to his injuries caused by torture and bullets fired on Sunday evening by a group of policemen during an operation to arrest his older brother, Eric Nijimbere, on Ceru hill, in the commune and province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to witnesses, a group of policemen led by the chief of the Bwoga position, a certain Minani, went in two vehicles to the victim's parents' house on Sunday evening, 15 May 2022, at around 8.30 p.m. for an operation aimed at searching for a firearm allegedly held by Fulgence Hakizimana. Although the law enforcement officers did not find the weapon, they arrested him and took him to a small bush in the locality to torture him horribly with serious wounds on his chest and face. He tried to run away in vain and the police shot him, wounding him seriously, and left thinking he was dead on the spot. His family evacuated him to the regional hospital in Gitega, but he succumbed to his injuries the following day.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplors the fact that no policeman among the torturers has been arrested to answer for the murder of Fulgence Hakizimana and calls for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

- In the afternoon of Tuesday 17 May 2022, the lifeless body of a young man named Willy, aged 30, was discovered in a small bush in the Shatanya III quarter in the town of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the perpetrators and circumstances of the murder of Willy, who was a native of Rubamvyi hill in the commune and province of Gitega, have not been identified. His body was taken to the morgue of the regional hospital in Gitega.



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.