

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 340 PUBLISHED ON 18 JUNE 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 June 2022 regarding 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 five (5) people seriously injured, including two cases of torture, and six (6) touts on car parks who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in the commune of Matana.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the evening of Saturday 12 June 2022, at around 7.30 p.m., Elie Ngendakumana, aged 55, was shot dead by an unidentified man armed with a Kalashnikov on the Runyonza hill of the Cewe zone, in the commune and province of Kirundo (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, the assassin, who was ambushed behind a tree, fired three bullets which hit the victim in the abdomen and thigh and he died immediately.

The same sources said that Elie Ngendakumana was returning from his fields after a day of harvesting with his three children in Bugabira commune in the same province. The motives for the murder are not yet clear due to lack of investigation.

- On 12 June 2022, on the Nyakibingo hill of Nyamurenza zone and commune, in Ngozi province (northern Burundi), the lifeless body of Epitace Nkenguburundi, a 65-year-old farmer, was found by his neighbours in a ditch behind his house.

According to a local source, the victim had been strangled with a rope. The motive and identity of the perpetrators have not been identified.

- On the morning of Tuesday 14 June 2022, the lifeless body of Jean-Paul Ntirampeba, the head of the youth league of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party on the Mushanga hill in Murwi zone and commune of province Cibitoke (north-western Burundi), was discovered on the shores of the Rusizi river by farmers at the foot of the 3rd transverse of the Gasenyi hill, in Buganda commune of the same province.

According to witnesses, Jean-Paul Ntirampeba, aged 27, was arrested last Saturday 11 June 2022 at around 3 a.m. at his home on the Rwiri sub-hill by the head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), Police Colonel Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya (OPN 0916), and then taken to the secret service dungeon in the same province. He was stabbed to death by policemen on the orders of Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya, after atrocious acts of torture in the SNR dungeon on suspicion of collaboration with Burundian rebels based in the east of the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo).

The same source said that the body of Jean-Paul Ntirampeba was buried the same day it was found on the orders of Police Colonel Jean Claude Ntirandekura, Provincial Commissioner of Police in Cibitoke.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the political intolerance towards activists of opposition political parties and serious human rights violations including abductions or forced disappearances as well as extrajudicial executions which are attributed to the head of the SNR in Cibitoke province, Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya. It calls for impartial investigations to identify the perpetrators of human rights violations in order to bring them to justice.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the morning of Saturday 11 June 2022, an 18-year-old man known as Bethel Pfukamusabe was evacuated in a state of unconsciousness and admitted to Gitega regional hospital after being severely tortured the day before by residents of Rutegama hill in Gitega commune and province (western Burundi) on charges of stealing crops from a household.

According to an eyewitness to the horrific scene of torture, the young man was caught stealing maize and beans from a local household and was severely beaten and injured by enraged residents, even getting chilli pepper into his wounds.

The same source revealed that none of the torturers had been apprehended although they had been identified.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplors the state of impunity that characterises the Burundian judicial system when justice is not used to crack down on any dissenting voice or presumed to be such against the ruling power. It recalls that impunity encourages the repetition of crimes as long as the perpetrators feel free to commit new offences without fear of punishment.

- On Saturday night, 12 June 2022, at around 2 a.m., a household on Kajondi hill in Rutovu commune of Bururi province (southern Burundi) was attacked by a group of men armed with machetes and clubs.

According to local sources, these unidentified criminals seriously injured the head of the household, Pascal Niyonkuru, in the leg, his wife in the back and a neighbour named Mélance in the head and leg. The victims were evacuated to a local health facility where they are receiving intensive care.

SOS-Torture Burundi regrets that criminals break into households, commit crimes and leave incognito while the police and Imbonerakure patrol every nook and cranny throughout the country at night under the banner of the joint security committees.

- On the evening of Wednesday 15 June 2022 at around 6 p.m., a pregnant woman named Fabiola was attacked at her home located on the Gatura hill of Mitakataka zone, in the commune and province of Bubanza (north-western Burundi) by four Imbonerakure members of the youth league of the presidential party CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Forces for the Defence of Democracy), including one Joseph Bapfubusa, who had threatened to kill the victim.

According to local sources, Fabiola was attacked by these four men while she was in the kitchen. They put a gag on her mouth to suffocate her and left her for dead before running away. Fortunately, neighbours intervened in time and rushed her to Bubanza hospital where, after recovering her mind, she said she had identified three men among the attackers, including a certain Joseph Bapfubusa whom she had denounced for stealing a can of palm oil.

SOS-Torture Burundi urges the authorities to put an end to the impunity of members of the Imbonerakure militia who are spreading terror with the knowledge of the security forces and threatening the peace of the citizens.

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

- Since last Friday, 10 June 2022, six young men who work in the car park of the Matana centre have been detained at the police station in Matana, Bururi province (southern Burundi). They are Astère Ndayikengurukiye, Kévin Mbonimpa, Augustin Niyuhire, Olègue Hategeka, Bernard Butoyi and Dieudonné



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Manirambona, who were arrested by the police for violating a verbal measure of 2021 issued by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security prohibiting the associations of touts.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the immediate release of these young illegal detainees. It is indignant at the unjust decisions of the Minister in charge of public security and internal affairs, who has a habit of verbally taking measures restricting or prohibiting the exercise of rights and freedoms in violation of the fundamental rules of administrative law.

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 on torture, arbitrary arrests, forced 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 December 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 town hall.