

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 342 PUBLISHED ON 02 JULY 2022**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 26 June to 2 July 2022 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

This report deplores two (2) murders, an abduction of a young man, and poor conditions at the Ngozi Judicial Police Detention Unit.

### **1. Violations of the right to life**

- In the afternoon of Wednesday 28 June 2022, a lifeless body of a yet unidentified young woman was discovered on the shores of Lake Tanganyika on Gasange hill, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province.

Witnesses of this macabre discovery wonder how such a horror can fall on a place that is constantly monitored by day and night rounds of young Imbonerakure and wonder about their real mission.

SOS Torture Burundi deplores the absence of a forensic investigation prior to any burial procedure to determine the circumstances of the death, to try to discover perpetrators as well as the motives for this assassination.

- On the morning of Wednesday 29 June 2022, a lifeless body of a person named Niyirera was found on Munyika I hill in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, opposite a watering place used for irrigation.

Those who gave testimony point the finger at the Imbonerakure youths for being involved in this assassination because they had arrested him, stripped him of his household goods on the night of 28 June 2022 during their patrols accusing him of being a thief.

SOS Torture Burundi deploras the fact that these nightly rounds by people who are not authorized to ensure security continue to be a threat to the freedom and safety of citizens with the approval of the administrative and police authorities and calls on the government to put an end to the impunity enjoyed by the Imbonerakure militiamen.

### 2. Violations of the right to liberty and security of person

- On 26 June 2022, at around 5pm, a young man known as Ndayishimiye Jean Bosco, from Butagazwa hill, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura province, was arrested and taken to an unrevealed location by uniformed members of the Institutional Protection Police (API) in a vehicle on Avenue du Large, Muha commune, Bujumbura city.

This practice of arrest, which seems like abduction (art. 31 CPP<sup>1</sup>) by law enforcement officers who do not declare their identity or the reason for the arrest, has taken thousands of lives since the 2015 crisis and some of these victims have been found dead in rivers, public places, or forests.

SOS Torture Burundi urges law enforcement officers to respect the basic principles of the rights of persons suspected of an offence, including the right to a lawyer (art. 138 of the Criminal Procedure Code), the right to be informed of his rights and to be able to exercise them (art. 35 of the Criminal Procedure Code), the reasons for his arrest and any charges against him in a language he understands (art. 35 of the Criminal Procedure Code), and the obligation to inform his family and any interested person (art. 36 of the Criminal Procedure Code). CPP), as well as the obligation to inform his family and any interested person (art. 36) and to respect the requirements of art. 15 CPP to bring arrested persons immediately before the competent judicial authority.

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<sup>1</sup> CPP : Code of Criminal Procedure

### 3. Violation of detainees' rights.

One hundred and thirty (130) is the number of people detained at the Ngozi judicial police lock-up in particularly inhumane conditions, including 18 women and 9 minors (5 being children detained with their mothers, in violation of art. 32 of the CPP). The capacity of this prison was only 35, i.e., more than 350%.

SOS Torture Burundi regrets that these overcrowded conditions do not allow these detainees to be treated with the respect due to the dignity and value inherent in the human person by ensuring the minimum standards of hygiene, with due regard to the climate, particularly regarding the volume of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating, and ventilation. He denounced these conditions as cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

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, 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 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 in the centre of Bujumbura city.