

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 346 PUBLISHED ON 30 JULY 2022**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 23 to 30 July 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 two CNL (National Congress for Freedom) activists who were tortured by members of the ruling party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) in Rumonge province and of two other CNL activists who were arbitrarily arrested and detained by a CNDD-FDD official in Makamba province.

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

- Since 20 July 2022, the body of a man in his thirties who was murdered by Police Colonel Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya, head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the province of Cibitoke (north-western Burundi), is still in the morgue of the hospital in the same province.

According to witnesses, the body of the young man was brought to this morgue by the vehicle of the SNR official in Cibitoke during the night of 19 to 20 July 2022.

According to information from the hospital in Cibitoke, the victim's body showed several deep knife wounds and fresh blood marks all over his body.

Local sources confirm that screams and moans of individuals being tortured are heard during the night inside the office of the SNR official in Cibitoke and that his

service vehicle regularly commutes during the night to bury the hastily murdered bodies.

- On Tuesday 26 July 2022, the decomposing body of a young teenager aged around ten years was discovered by passers-by in a palm grove on the Gifurwe hill, not far from the Mpanda cemetery in Bubanza province (north-western Burundi).

According to local sources, passers-by were alerted by flies and a foul smell emanating from the body of the young man, who was not identified. Volunteers from the Mpanda Red Cross intervened to disinfect the place where the body was lying and proceeded to bury it the same day without waiting for an investigation to identify the victim, the perpetrators and the circumstances of his death.

- In the early morning of Friday 29 July 2022, farmers on their way to their fields discovered the body of Ezéchiel Nsengiyumva hanging from a tree with a rope on the hill of Gakerekwa, Butahana zone, Mabayi commune, in Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi).

According to witnesses, the man, a Rwandan national in his fifties, was recognised as a miner at the gold mine that has been established in the locality for some 20 years.

The same sources reveal that Ezéchiel Nsengiyumva was murdered by a group of seven imbonerakure from the locality of which a police search of the homes of four of them uncovered the belongings of the deceased, including clothes, money and gold. All these Imbonerakure are reportedly in the hands of the police for investigation. They are Prosper Ngendakumana, Isaac Sijendema, Simon Vyagoyumugabo, Mathias alias Kidashi, Léopold Ntakirutimana, Berchmans Hakizuburundi and Jean Siborugira.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial and independent investigation to punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law.

### **2. Violations of the right to physical integrity**

- On Sunday 24 July 2022, two CNL party activists, Néhémie Nimubona and a certain Longin, were assaulted and beaten by members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, led by the party's communal representative, Obed Ndayizigiye. The acts were committed on the Kanyinya hill, Muyama zone, Buyengero commune, in Rumonge province (south-western Burundi).

According to witnesses, the CNDD-FDD activists were returning from their party's activities in the same locality. They were not bothered by the police, who remain their accomplices or protectors.

SOS-Torture Burundi asks the country's authorities, in this case the President of the Republic, to give clear instructions to the leaders of his party at all levels, so that they can understand that democracy in a country requires sacrifices in tolerance and peaceful cohabitation of all citizens despite their differences.

### **3. Violations of the right to liberty and security of person**

- On Wednesday 27 July 2022, Bonaventure Ndikuriyo, nicknamed Bolingo, and Nzirubusa, communal leaders of the CNL party in Kayogoro commune, who were participating in the construction of a house intended to host the party's headquarters, were arrested and imprisoned by Daniel Hakizimana, head of the Mugeni zone in Kayogoro commune of Makamba province (southern Burundi). The two CNL activists are currently being held at the police station in Kayogoro.



## 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 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 located in the centre of Bujumbura city.