

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 347 PUBLISHED ON 6 AUGUST 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 30 July to 6 August 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 (2) young girls who were raped by a soldier of the 1st Military Division posted in the Rukoko forest located in Gihanga province and one (1) young girl who was brutalised and seriously injured by a lawyer of the Gitega Bar Association.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On 30 July 2022, a man known as Manirakiza clubbed his 14-year-old son to death on the Gasakuza hill of the Gitaba zone, in the commune and province of Rutana (south-east Burundi).

According to local sources, Manirakiza accused his son of stealing eighty thousand Burundian francs (80,000 Fbu). He began by tying him up with a rope and hitting him with a club when his wife had left to alert the neighbours.

The same sources said that the criminal fled after the crime was consumed.

- On Wednesday 3 August 2022, the lifeless body of a young woman identified as Euphémie Nizigama, aged 31, was discovered by passers-by in a wooded area on the Rukiga hill, in the commune and province of Muramvya (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the young woman was from the Senga hill in the commune of Bitezi of Ruyigi province (eastern Burundi). The circumstances of the murder as well as the perpetrators have not been elucidated.

- On Wednesday 3 August 2022, the lifeless body of an unidentified 22-year-old girl was found hanging on an avocado tree on the Gatwe hill of the Kayogoro commune, in the southern province of Makamba.

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, the victim was killed after being raped as her body was found naked. The girl's body was then hung on the avocado tree to simulate suicide.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On Monday 1st August 2022, at around 12 noon, a young girl known as Chantal Havyarimana was seriously injured in the Shatanya District, on Mirama Street, in the town of Gitega (central Burundi) by Mr Wenceslas Bandyatuyaga, a lawyer at the Gitega Bar Association.

According to witnesses, the girl was brutalized and beaten because she had opposed the continuation of construction work on a house that the lawyer was supervising on a disputed plot of land resulting from an illegal sale that the victim's mother had concluded, without her offspring's knowledge, with one of his clients while she was not in possession of her mental faculties and that the lawsuit against the said illegal sale was still pending before the Gitega Court of Appeal. According to the same sources, Mr Wenceslas Bandyatuyaga, in a rage, dragged the young girl to the ground before hitting her several times until she was injured, while ordering her not to set foot on the plot of land again if she did not want to be killed.

3. Cases of violence against women (rape)

- On Monday 1st August 2022, two young girls aged 16 and 21 respectively were raped by Master corporal Ocar Manirakiza in the Rukoko forest located in Gihanga commune of Bubanza province (north-west of Burundi).

According to witnesses, Oscar Manirakiza, assigned to a position in the Rukoko forest under the 1st Military Division, was caught in the act of raping the two young girls in search of firewood, whom he had initially threatened to kill if they resisted.

The same sources state that the victims were taken the next day to the Seruka Centre in Bujumbura, which specialized in the comprehensive care of victims of sexual violence.

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.