

## SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 348 PUBLISHED ON 13 AUGUST 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 6 to 13 August 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least six (6) people were murdered during this period in different localities in the country.

The report also deplores the case of one (1) woman who was tortured by three Imbonerakure in Ruyigi province.

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

- A report received by SOS-Torture Burundi on Sunday 7 August 2022 reveals that a decomposing body was discovered on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 on the hill of Gitumba, Nyamakarabo zone, Mugina commune, in Cibitoke province (north-west of Burundi).

According to local sources, the body was identified as that of a Rwandan who was killed at dusk on the Ruhwa River on the border with Rwanda by Imbonerakure making nightly rounds. The victim was trying to cross the border to visit his family in Burundi. His body was hastily buried near the Ruhwa River separating Burundi and Rwanda. Rwandans tried to come and dig up the body of their compatriot, but in vain.

- On 6 August 2022, the lifeless body of a young man aged 30 was found in a forest on the Kigoma sub-hill of the Kiramira hill, in Rugombo commune of Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi). According to local sources, the young man was killed with knives and several gaping wounds were visible all over his body.

- On Saturday night, 7 August 2022, the lifeless body of a schoolgirl named Anastasie Gahenga, aged 16, was found hanged under an avocado tree near their home on Kanyinya hill, Gasibe zone, Matana commune, in Bururi province (southern Burundi).

According to local sources, Felix Ndiokubwayo, their servant, is suspected of having murdered this young girl after having knocked her up.

- On the night of Sunday 7 August 2022, the lifeless body of a man known as Louis Mayange, aged about 50, was found on the hill of Kiramira in Rugombo commune of Cibitoke province of (north-west of Burundi).

According to local sources, the 50-year-old was strangled on the way back to visit his family.

SOS-Torture Burundi regrets that no investigation has been opened to identify the perpetrators and the circumstances of these murders and calls for credible, impartial and independent investigations to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

- On Wednesday 10 August 2022, the lifeless body of a teenager named Kévin, aged 14, was found in a cassava field on the hill and zone of Rugunga, in the commune and province of Bubanza (north-west of Burundi).

According to sources in the victim's family, Kevin had been sent to the market the day before, but did not return.

The same sources specify that the victim's slit body was buried the same day without waiting for a judicial investigation to determine the circumstances of the murder and identify the perpetrators in order to bring them to justice.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of the crime and punish them according to the law.

- On the morning of Friday 12 August 2022, Police Colonel Nicolas Nikoyagize shot and killed his wife Ménémore Nijimbere, a teacher at the Basic School of Gifunzo, in the Communal Directorate of Education in Rutana, following a marital dispute that had gone wrong. Indeed, on the eve of the murder, Nicolas Nikoyagize had sworn to assassinate his wife and the latter had momentarily left the marital home to return on the fateful morning.

According to local sources, a child living at the couple's home in the centre of Rutana (south-east Burundi) tried to alert the neighbours, but to no avail.

The same sources regret that the alleged perpetrator of the crime remains free until now.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the immediate arrest of the alleged perpetrator to bring him to justice and punish him according to the law.

## 2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- A report received by SOS-Torture Burundi on Monday 8 August 2022 reveals that during the night of 30 July 2022, three Imbonerakure named Emmanuel Nsabuhoraho, Venant Ndayemeye and Constantin Nibaruta, while on night patrol violently broke into the home of a woman known as Alice Igiraneza located on the hill of Nkongwe, in the chief town of the Bitezi commune, in Ruyigi province (east of Burundi) and seriously injured her by accusing her of adultery.

According to local sources, the woman was taken the next day to Butezi hospital for treatment of her injuries while the three Imbonerakure were arrested and taken to the communal police cell in Butezi for questioning.



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

*Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi*

However, according to the same sources, the three CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party activists were released on 4 August 2022 without being punished for the offence committed.

SOS-Torture deploras the impunity enjoyed by CNDD-FDD militants, which is at the root of all human rights violations in Burundi. It calls on the Burundian judicial authorities to get their act together and treat all citizens equally.

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.