

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 353 PUBLISHED ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2022**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 10 to 17 September 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 case of one (1) person who was tortured by policemen in Bubanza province.

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

- On the evening of Tuesday 13 September 2022, a man known as Dieudonné Niyonizigiye, aged around 40, was murdered by his wife at his home located at the site of displaced persons in the commune of Ruhororo in Ngozi province (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator took advantage of the victim's drunken state to stab her to death.

- On the morning of Tuesday 13 September 2022, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered at the fishing port of Rumonge province (southwestern Burundi).

Local sources say that the victim's body was hastily buried under the orders of the communal authority without prior identification of the victim or determination of the cause of death.

- On Wednesday 14 September 2022, another lifeless body of an unidentified man was found on the shore of Lake Tanganyika next to the central prison of Murembwe in the Gatete zone of the commune and province of Rumonge. The administrative authority also ordered the hasty burial of the victim's body without identifying him or the circumstances of his death.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the recurrent phenomenon of lifeless bodies of people killed often elsewhere and then thrown and abandoned in the wild, usually in or on the banks of rivers. This indicates the complicity of the administrative authorities in these crimes committed by perpetrators whom they know well but who nevertheless enjoy judicial impunity.

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

- On the night of Saturday 10 September 2022 at around 8 p.m., David Hagabiyaremye, an agent of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the commune and province of Bubanza (north-western Burundi), was arrested and violently tortured by a group of police officers from the police station in the same province.

According to witnesses, David Hagabiyaremye, who is also an Imbonerakure member of the youth league of the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), was arrested in a bistro on the orders of the provincial secretary of this party, Alexandre Ngoragoze. After his arrest, the police officers beat him violently until he lost consciousness as a result of the blows and injuries he sustained. He was evacuated to hospital the same night in a critical condition and has since been placed under police surveillance in hospital.



The same sources revealed that the victim had denounced fuel fraud in jerry cans and chemical fertilisers which are operated by Alexandre Ngoragoze in connivance with some policemen of the provincial police station in Bubanza whose coordination is ensured by the head of the operations department commonly called S3.

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.

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