

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 354 PUBLISHED ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 17 to 24 September 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person was murdered during this period in Muyinga province.

The report also deplores the cases of three (3) people seriously injured in a grenade attack in Mwaro province and one (1) person tortured by the head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) and the governor in Rutana province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Wednesday 21 September 2022, the decomposing body of a man known as Ezéchiel Ntamasambiro was found a few metres from the Buhinyuza commune office in Muyinga province (north-east Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, Ezéchiel Ntamasambiro had been missing since the morning of Monday 19 September when he left his home and never returned. The body of the victim showed wounds on the head while his clothes were dirty and torn, which shows that Ezéchiel Ntamasambiro had tried to defend himself before being murdered.

The same sources said that the victim's wife was arrested and detained at the local police cell in Buhinyuza as part of an investigation based on suspicions of land disputes in the family that may have led to the murder.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On 19 September 2022, a man named Nisubire was severely tortured by the head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Rutana province (south-east Burundi) on the orders of the governor of this province, Olivier Nibitanga.

According to local sources, Nisubire was violently tortured to the point of unconsciousness in the SNR cell in Makamba in the presence of the provincial governor who immediately took the victim to Rutana hospital. Olivier Nibitanga even ordered the doctors to take the victim out of the hospital, but in vain.

The same sources revealed that the governor of Rutana, Olivier Nibitanga, reportedly ordered the torture of trader Nisubire following a dispute between them over a motorbike of the trader that he had illegally seized for three months. This prompted the owner to lodge a complaint against him in the Supreme Court, despite several death threats.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the judicial authorities to initiate an independent investigation in order to prosecute the alleged torturers and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the night of Monday 19 September 2022 at around 11 p.m., unidentified criminals ambushed a group of three people including a trader known as Emile Nkurunziza alias Siyoni and his two friends Vianney Irankunda and Emmanuel Nshimirimana on the hill and zone of Kanka, in Bisoro commune of Mwaro province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the three people were attacked with a grenade as they were returning home. All three men were seriously injured in the grenade explosion and were first evacuated to the Kanka health centre before being



transferred the same night to Kibumbu hospital and then the next day to Kibuye hospital in Gitega province for appropriate surgical treatment.

The same sources regret that no suspects have been apprehended so far.

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.