

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 355 PUBLISHED ON 01 OCTOBER 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 24 September to 1st October 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person was killed by a policeman during this period in Gitega province.

The report also deplores the cases of one (1) student at the University of Burundi who was seriously injured following acts of torture committed by Imbonerakure within this university institution, two (2) people who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in Bujumbura city and one (1) girl who was raped in the province of Rumonge.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the night of Friday 30 September 2022, at around 11 p.m., Emmanuel Kwizera, a vehicle driver, was shot dead at close range by Fabrice Irankunda, a policeman from the position located on the hill of Bwoga, in the commune and province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to witnesses, Emmanuel Kwizera was killed while trying to separate the perpetrator and a man named Népomucène Bavumiragiye who were arguing over a prostitute that both wanted to conquer.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On the night of Sunday 25 September 2022 at around 11 p.m., Emile Mailo Nduwimana, a student at the ISCO (Higher Institute of Commerce) at the University of Burundi at the Mutanga Campus, was severely tortured inside the

campus by Imbonerakure militiamen, students at the same university institution located in the city of Bujumbura (western Burundi).

According to witnesses, Emile Mailo Nduwimana was returning to the campus from a bistro in the neighbouring Nyakabiga district when he came across Imbonerakure militiamen (members of the youth league of the CNDD-FDD party) posing as security guards on campus. They first beat him severely on the spot before taking him to their headquarters inside the campus in pavilion IX where they continued to torture him horribly until he lost consciousness. For several hours, until 4 a.m., these Imbonerakure violently beat Emile Mailo Nduwimana on the head and lower limbs and inserted a sharp object in his throat before he lost consciousness.

The same sources say that the victim was taken between life and death in the early hours of the morning to his residence in Tropicana 2. Following protests from other student roommates, the police and the student representative took Emile Mailo Nduwimana to hospital for intensive care in the resuscitation room in a comatose state.

Sources at the Mutanga Campus reveal that this is not the first time this student has been tortured in this way. He is still accused by his Imbonerakure torturers of being among the recruiters of the CNL party (National Congress for Freedom). He was first stabbed in the arm for this and even filed a complaint without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplures the attitude of the rectoral authority of the University of Burundi in the face of the abuses committed for a long time with impunity by student members of the Imbonerakure youth league. It calls for a thorough, independent and impartial investigation to identify all the Imbonerakure involved in these acts of torture in order to bring them to justice and punish them in accordance with the law.

3. Violations of the right to liberty: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- On 27 September 2022, Etienne Sahabo, the younger brother of Dr Christophe Sahabo, former Director General of Kira Hospital currently in detention, and Sandra Ndayizeye, one of his lawyers, were arbitrarily arrested respectively in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday in the economic capital Bujumbura (western Burundi). Both were arrested by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). At the time of their arrest, Etienne Sahabo was at his place of work at the Credit Bank of Bujumbura (BCB) while Sandra Ndayizeye was at her home in the commercial city of Bujumbura. According to witnesses, the two were taken the same day to the Kinindo zone prison after being interrogated in turn at the Muha and Mukaza prosecutor's offices in Bujumbura city.

According to the same sources, lawyer Sandra Ndayizeye and Dr Christophe Sahabo's younger brother were transferred to Mpimba central prison on Wednesday 28 September in the evening after being accused, during a tough interrogation lasting more than 8 hours at the prosecutor's office in Muha, of having forced the other shareholders of Kira Hospital to sign the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of crisis held on 8 September 2022 at the end of which Dr. Christophe Sahabo was recognized as "only legitimate and entitled to manage the company Kira Hospital S.A. Swiss Clinic and to ensure the administrative and financial management of Kira as General Manager ", an offence invented by the investigating magistrate who had run out of legal arguments to justify their wrongful arrest and detention.

SOS-Torture Burundi deploras the instrumentalisation of the Burundian justice system, which is always the source of numerous parodies of politically motivated trials, such as the Kira Hospital case, in which the Burundian State wants to use this channel to plunder the shares of a Swiss company, SwissMed International, which has a majority stake in Kira Hospital S.A. Swiss Clinic, in view of the official documents drawn up at the time of its incorporation.

4. Case of gender-based violence (rape)

- On 24 September 2022, a man known as Casimir Singirinyuma was alleged to have raped a 4-year-old girl on the Mwange hill in the Kizuka zone, in the commune and province of Rumonge (south-western Burundi).

According to local sources, the girl's parents noticed that she had been raped and alerted the police, who arrested the suspect, Casimir Singirinyuma, on the same day and took him to the commune police station in Rumonge for investigation.

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.