

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 358 PUBLISHED ON 22 OCTOBER 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 15 to 22 October 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least five (5) people were murdered during this period in different localities in the country.

The report also deplores the case of a CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activist who has been arbitrarily detained for a month in Muramvya central prison.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Saturday 15 October 2022, a man known as Kwizera was found dying in a wooded area on the hill of Mukoni in the commune and province of Muyinga (north-east Burundi). According to a local source, Mr Kwizera, a native of Gashikanwa commune in Ngozi province, had been severely beaten by unidentified individuals and died two days later.
- On the night of Monday 17 October 2022, at around 8 p.m., a motorbike taxi driver named Justin was shot dead by police officers on patrol on the hill of Mayange, in the Bigina zone, Kayogoro commune, in Makamba province (southern Burundi).

According to local sources, Justin came across policemen on patrol while transporting a client who was carrying chemical fertiliser and had managed to escape.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough and independent investigation to identify the police agents responsible for the murder and try them according to the law. It deplores the lack of professionalism of the Burundian police and calls on the police

authorities to organise training for all police officers on the basic principles of the legal use of restraint and the [code of conduct for law enforcement officials](#), particularly with regard to the use of force.

- On the morning of Thursday 20 October 2022, the lifeless body of an unidentified young man was found in the valley on the edge of the Gitongwe and Kinyota hills in the commune and province of Muyinga (north-east Burundi). According to local sources, the circumstances of his death have not been clarified and no investigation has been opened.
- On the morning of Saturday 22 October 2022, two lifeless bodies of an unidentified woman in her forties and a man known as Désiré Nsabimana, aged 38, were discovered respectively in the quarters of Nyabututsi and Shatanya 3, in the commune and province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the woman's body had gaping wounds on the head and mouth, while Désiré Nsabimana's body showed no signs of violence despite the presence of a club at the scene of the gruesome discovery.

The same sources state that the two bodies were taken to the morgue of the regional hospital of Gitega by the civil protection police.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for thorough investigations to identify the perpetrators of these murders and bring them to justice.

2. Violation of the right to liberty: arbitrary arrest and detention

- A CNL party activist known as Honoré Ruberintwari has been arbitrarily detained for a month in Muramvya central prison.

According to local sources, Honoré Ruberintwari was arrested without any warrant on 18 September 2022 at around 8 p.m. at his home located at the Musagara hill in the commune and province of Muramvya (central Burundi) by three police agents under the command of former member of parliament Rémégie Bazirahomponyoye, a member of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party. He was then taken in a Probox car without registration number to the police cell in Bugarama where he spent the night before being transferred the next day to Muramvya central prison.

The same sources reveal that Mr Honoré Ruberintwari is suspected of collaboration with armed gangs, but without any evidence to support these allegations and that a decision on his pre-trial detention has still been pending for a week, in flagrant violation of the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure on pre-trial detention, which sets a 48-hour deadline within which the reasoned order ruling on pre-trial detention in chambers must be issued (Article 157 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

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.