

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 367 PUBLISHED ON 24 DECEMBER 2022

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

At least two (2) people were murdered during this period in Kirundo and Rutana provinces.

The report also deplores the cases of two (2) people who were seriously injured in Makamba and Ruyigi provinces.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Monday 19 December 2022, a man known as Ezéchiel Manirakiza was shot dead at his home by a policeman named Corporal Ferdinand Ndikuriyo on Gisitwe hill in the Ntega zone and commune of Kirundo province (northern Burundi).

According to witnesses, Ferdinand Ndikuriyo, aged 27, was arguing with his wife named Nibitanga and the policeman intervened to separate them. However, after the argument stopped, the man threw stones at the policeman who sustained a head injury and retaliated by shooting him in the chest. The body of Ferdinand Ndikuriyo was taken to the Kigali health centre in the Ntega zone while the policeman was taken to the Ntega health centre for treatment.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the lack of professionalism of the Burundian police, particularly with regard to the assessment of the principle of proportionality, and calls on the police authorities to organise refresher training on the basic principles of the legal use of coercion, particularly with regard to the use of firearms.

- On 29 December 2022, the lifeless body of a child named Fiston, aged 8, was found in a eucalyptus plantation on the Gatongati hill of the Gitaba zone in the commune and province of Rutana (south-east Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim was strangled with a rope and his body was found the next day near his parents' home. According to the same sources, the young Fiston had been abducted the day before the crime at around 8 p.m. on his way home from his paternal grandfather's house in the same locality.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the night of Sunday 18 December 2022, Patrice Ntiganzwa, former leader of the Muyange hill in the Nyanza-Lac commune of the Makamba province (southern Burundi) and an activist of the URONA party (Union for National Progress), was violently beaten and seriously injured by two imbonerakure (members of the youth league of the CNDD-FDD party) in a bistro located on the same hill in Muyange.

According to witnesses, Patrice Ntiganzwa, aged 70, was on his way home when an imbonerakure called Jean Bosco Ntakirutimana held him back and took him inside the bistro where he came face to face with another imbonerakure called Charles alias Mugomozi who knocked him directly to the ground. Despite the fact that the victim had hit his head against the cement floor, the attacker jumped several times on him at his abdomen while accusing him of having killed his father in 1993. The same sources said that the septuagenarian was evacuated with a heavy flow of blood from his nose and mouth to the district hospital of Nyanza-Lac.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the acts of violence that are regularly committed by imbonerakure who believe they can do anything because of the impunity they have always enjoyed for their reprehensible acts.

- On the night of Monday to Tuesday, 20 December 2022, at around 2 a.m., a woman known as Espérance Sibomana, aged 42, was seriously injured in the head by blows with a club by her husband Jean Nyandwi on the hill and commune of Bweru in the Ruyigi province (eastern Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim received several blows to the head with a club and was evacuated in a critical condition to Ruyigi hospital before being transferred to the Fiftieth Anniversary Hospital "Natwe Turashoboye" in the capital of Karusi province, while his executioner left immediately after the crime.

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.