

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 366 PUBLISHED ON 17 DECEMBER 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 10 to 17 December 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the cases of two (2) persons who were seriously injured in Rutana and Muyinga provinces.

1. Violations of the right to life

- Information received by SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that on 2 December 2022, a young man known as Patrick Niyokwizera, 26 years old, internally displaced from the Mutaho site, was killed at around 7 p.m. by unidentified individuals not far from the Mutaho communal office in the province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to local sources, no investigation has been launched to identify the perpetrators and the circumstances of his murder.

- On 13 December 2022, the lifeless body of Pierre Ngendanzi, a 63-year-old retired soldier from the ex-FAB (Burundian Armed Forces), was found not far from his home in the valley between the hills of Ruhande and Gishubi in Gitega province.

According to local sources, Pierre Ngendanzi alias Mabuye was attacked by unidentified individuals on his way back from the Gishubi market and his body showed head injuries. The motives and circumstances of the crime have not been clarified.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for full, independent and impartial investigations to identify the perpetrators of these murders in order to bring them to justice.

- In the afternoon of Wednesday 14 December 2022 at around 4 p.m., the lifeless body of an unidentified young man was discovered by farmers on the 6th transversal of Rugazi hill, in the Rugombo commune of the Cibitoke province (north-west of Burundi).

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the body of the victim was covered with fresh blood. Residents of the 6th transversal believe that the victim was killed elsewhere and suspect that the provincial head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Cibitoke, police colonel Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya, is the author of the assassination and that he dumped the body there, as they saw his vehicle passing near the place where the body was discovered at around 11 p.m. the previous day.

The same sources state that the local administrator of Rugombo immediately ordered the burial of the young man without prior investigation to identify the victim and his killers.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the hasty decisions of the administrative authorities, particularly in Cibitoke province, each time lifeless bodies are discovered in the wild. It calls on the Burundian justice system to conduct an independent and impartial investigation into the recurrent criminal allegations made against the head of the SNR in Cibitoke province, police colonel Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya.

- On the night of Friday 17 December 2022, at around 11 p.m., Majambere Selemani and his wife Espérance Niyonkuru were murdered in their home while their child was seriously injured in a grenade attack on the hill of Kobero,

Butarugera zone, Butihinda commune, in the province of Muyinga (northeast of Burundi).

According to local sources, unidentified criminals broke through the window of the room where the victims were sleeping and threw a grenade which exploded, killing Espérance Niyonkuru (aged 36) and seriously injuring Selemani Majambere (aged around 40) and their child. The same sources specify that the two injured were evacuated to Muyinga hospital before the father of the family was transferred to Ngozi hospital where he succumbed to his injuries a few hours later.

SOS-Torture Burundi deploras the loss of these human lives due to the proliferation of weapons that were distributed to the Imbonerakure militia members of the youth league of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy), and calls on the country's authorities, in this case President Evariste Ndayishimiye, to proceed with the disarmament and dismantling of this militia in order for peace and security to reign in Burundi. It calls for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of the attack and bring them to justice.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the night of Sunday 11 December 2022 at around 8 p.m., Nestor Ndayitwayeko, driver of the Director General of Territorial Administration in the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, seriously injured Musafiri, a cook at a bistro in the urban centre of Rutana province (south-east of Burundi), with a dagger.

According to witnesses, the incident originated from an order for a skewer which the victim refused to place and which resulted in him being stabbed in the heart.

The same sources said that the victim was evacuated to Rutana hospital before being transferred to Kibuye hospital in Gitega province for appropriate medical treatment.

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.