

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 369 PUBLISHED ON 07 JANUARY 2023**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 31 December 2022 to 7 January 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

### **1. Violations of the right to life**

- On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, a man known as Anicet Mugisha was beaten to death by an imbonerakure on the Ngarama hill in the Kayero zone of Mpinga-Kayove commune, in Rutana province (southeastern Burundi).

According to local sources, the motives for the crime have not been clarified.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the behaviour of certain imbonerakure affiliated to the youth league of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy), who believe they can do whatever they like because of the impunity they have enjoyed since the party came to power in 2005. It calls on the judicial authorities to initiate an impartial investigation to punish the perpetrator in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Monday 2 January 2023, the decomposing body of an unidentified man was discovered by farmers on their way to their fields on the 3<sup>rd</sup> transversal of Rural Gasenyi hill, in Buganda commune of Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi).

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the victim's body had been decapitated by unidentified individuals. The body was buried the same day on the

orders of the communal administrator, Pamphile Hakizimana, without investigating the identity of the victim or the perpetrators.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the recurrent phenomenon of bodies abandoned by their executioners and found particularly in the communes of Buganda and Rugombo in the province of Cibitoke, near the Rusizi River, and the fact that, when these bodies are found, the administration gives the order to bury them without identification and without investigation. This is one of the manifestations of the impunity that reigns in Burundi despite numerous calls from several human rights organisations for the Burundian authorities to investigate these crimes. It once again calls on the Burundian authorities to put an end to the phenomenon of bodies abandoned and found in the wild by conducting credible investigations to identify the perpetrators and put them out of action.

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.