

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 376 PUBLISHED ON 25 FEBRUARY 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 18 to 25 February 2023 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person was murdered in Gitega province.

The same report deplores the cases of one (1) person who was tortured by the head of the Youth League Imbonerakure in Kirundo province and one (1) person who was abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Cibitoke province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the evening of Wednesday 22 February 2023, the lifeless body of an unidentified girl in her early twenties was found in a eucalyptus grove on the Mugitega hill in the Bugendana commune of the Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, the victim was raped by her executioners before her throat was savagely slit, as even her underwear was left next to the body.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the resurgence of crime in the province of Gitega, which has already recorded three people murdered in less than two weeks. It calls for a credible and independent investigation to discover the perpetrators of the crime instead of rushing to bury the bodies discovered without even deigning to identify them.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- Information received by SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that on the night of 14 February 2023 at around 8.30 p.m., the leader of the Imbonerakure Youth League affiliated to the CNDD-FDD party¹ in the Nyange-Bushaza district in the urban centre of the province of Kirundo (northern Burundi), who is known by the pseudonym Madora, inflicted serious intentional blows and injuries on three people, including the leader of the cell on the Nyange-Bushaza hill, named Thaddée, a woman and the child she was carrying on her back.

According to a witness to the scene, while Thaddée was in his bistro in the presence of his wife, children and some customers, he heard this Imbonerakure leader boast: "You don't scare me. I can slap you and take it from there". Thus, almost simultaneously, Madora inflicted two violent punches on the head of the man who immediately lost consciousness. Subsequently, as he fled, he also hit and shoved a woman who fell to the ground, crushing the child she was carrying on her back, who lost consciousness for at least three quarters of an hour. Police intervention was late and arrived at the scene of the crime after the assaulter had already fled. All three victims were urgently evacuated to Kirundo hospital for medical treatment.

SOS-torture Burundi deplores the impunity that has surrounded all the crimes that have long been attributed to this Imbonerakure Madora accused of several blood crimes since the CNDD-FDD came to power. In particular, he was accused of having brutally murdered the former administrator of the commune of Kirundo, Serges Barutwanayo, in 2014. It calls on the Burundian justice system to get its act together and to arrest and try this renowned criminal in order to put him out of action.

¹ National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy.

3. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On the afternoon of Thursday 23 February 2023 at around 5.30 p.m., Adolphe Ndayizeye, a teacher at the High School of Karurama in the province of Cibitoke (north-western Burundi), was abducted in the capital of this province by two SNR agents.

According to witnesses among the Christians who were on their way to an evening mass in a Catholic parish in the locality, two police agents armed with Kalashnikov rifles on a motorbike kidnapped Adolphe Ndayizeye on the main road, not far from the provincial office, and put him on another motorbike bound for the SNR office. He was accused without evidence of collaborating with a rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

A police source told a family member that Adolphe Ndayizeye, a native from Bururi province (in southern Burundi), was taken from the SNR's dungeon in Cibitoke province during the same night and taken on board a SNR vehicle to an unknown destination. His relatives have searched all police cells, including the SNR, but to no avail, and fear for his safety.

SOS-Torture Burundi condemns the continuation of serious human rights violations committed by state agents in a context of denial by government authorities, in this case the Head of State himself, Evariste Ndayishimiye. It calls on these same authorities to give clear orders to the kidnapers of the teacher Adolphe Ndayizeye so that he is returned to his family and to initiate criminal proceedings against the perpetrators of the kidnapping.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi

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.