

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 378 PUBLISHED ON 11 MARCH 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 4 to 11 March 2023 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person was killed during this period in a grenade explosion in Gitega province.

The report also deplores the case of two (2) people who were seriously injured with machetes in Kayanza province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the night of Wednesday 8 March 2023 at around 8.30 pm, a woman known as Jacqueline Ndarihoranye was killed in a grenade explosion thrown by an unidentified individual on the hill of Nyabututsi rural in the commune and province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim was preparing food in the kitchen when a person detonated a grenade, killing her on the spot.

The same sources revealed that Jacqueline Nddarihoranye had long been suspected of witchcraft by people around her and that she had narrowly escaped a murder attempt six months before this attack when unidentified individuals had seriously injured her with machetes.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an independent and credible judicial enquiry to identify the perpetrator of the crime and punish him or her in accordance with the law. It deplores the proliferation of firearms held illegally by some members of the ruling party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD).

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the night of Sunday 5 March 2023 at around 10 pm, on the Sakinyinya hill in the commune of Muhanga of the Kayanza province (northern Burundi), Melchior Kamwenubusa (aged 70) and his wife Sabine Bukuru (aged 66) were seriously injured with machetes by their son Claude Nshimirimana (aged 32), a member of the Imbonerakure Youth League affiliated to the CNDD-FDD party, in complicity with a certain Norbert Ntunzwenimana.

According to local sources, the main perpetrator fled the scene immediately after the commission of the double crime while his accomplice was arrested on the Gitwenzi hill of the Mivo zone, in the commune and province of Ngozi, in his attempt to escape. The same sources said that the two victims were evacuated to Gahombo hospital in the same province of Kayanza where they were admitted for intensive care.

SOS-Torture Burundi demands that all perpetrators of the crime be arrested and punished in accordance with the criminal law.

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.