

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 381 PUBLISHED ON 01 APRIL 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 25 March to 1st April 2023 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the case of one (1) CNL (National Council for Freedom) party activist who was abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Muyinga province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the night of Saturday 25 March 2023, at around 9pm, Gérard Mbazumutima, a history teacher at the Saint Theresa of Mushasha High School in Gitega province (central Burundi), was murdered by unidentified individuals as he returned to his home on the hill of Nyabututsi rural in the political capital, from a local bistro.

According to local sources, the body of Gérard Mbazumutima had gaping wounds in the head and was lying in a pool of blood. The motive for the crime has not been clarified.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the increase in the number of murders in Gitega province and notes bitterly that the murder of Gérard Mbazumutima was the 5th victim of this barbaric crime in the month of March alone. It calls on the judicial and police authorities to conduct credible investigations in order to identify the perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Abduction case

- On the morning of Wednesday 29 March 2023, a CNL activist known as Viateur Nzigo was abducted from his home in Gasorwe commune of Muyinga province (north-east Burundi) by SNR agents.

According to witnesses, SNR agents in an unregistered Toyota Hilux double cabin vehicle with tinted windows arrived at Viateur Nzigo's home and ordered him to leave the house while he was still sleeping. They then rushed him and took him away in the vehicle to an unknown destination. Family members and CNL activists searched for him in all the dungeons in Muyinga province without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the SNR authorities to communicate the reasons for the arrest and the place of detention of Viateur Nzigo and to put an end to the human rights violations attributable to this service for almost 20 years.

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.