

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 382 PUBLISHED ON 8 APRIL 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 1st to 8 April 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least six (6) people were murdered during this period in different localities in the country.

The report also deplores the case of sixty-one (61) members of a religious congregation called 'World's Glory Church of Christ' who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in a police cell in Ngozi province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- A report received by SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that on the night of Thursday 30 March 2023 at around 7 p.m., a man known as Juvénal Mpfagutunga (58 years old) was stabbed to death by his wife Léonie Nambazimana (35 years old) on the Ngara 1 sub-hill of the Butavuka hill, in Rugazi commune of Bubanza province (north-west of Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim was stabbed several times in the chest before being evacuated to a local health facility where she died a few hours later.

The same sources said that the motive for the murder was linked to a marital dispute over the infidelity of Juvénal Mpfagutunga, who had a child out of wedlock. The author of the assassination was arrested and taken to the police station in Muzinda for a criminal investigation.

- On the night of Sunday 2 April 2023, Olivier Niyonsaba, a young man of 21, was killed with a machete by a truck driver in the capital of the Kayanza province (northern Burundi) when he tried, in complicity with other men, to steal bags of flour from the truck.

According to local sources, Olivier Niyonsaba got into a truck at a place called "Kwidepo" to steal bags of flour in complicity with other thieves. He was seen in the driver's rear-view mirror as he tried to cut the ropes tying the flour sacks to lower some of them. The driver then slammed on the brakes, got off with a machete and sliced off the young man's head and continued his journey.

The same sources said that no action has been taken to search for the criminal and bring him to justice.

- On the night of Monday 3 April 2023 at around 9 p.m., Immaculée Mwaluke Muhemedi, a Congolese student in Bac II at the University of Hope of Africa, was stabbed to death in the ribs by an unidentified man in the locality, not far from her residence located on the Gahahe hill in the Rubirizi zone, in Mutimbuzi commune of Bujumbura province (western Burundi) and died on arrival at a health facility in the economic capital.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation in order to punish the perpetrator in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Thursday 6 April 2023, at around 10 a.m., the lifeless body of a woman known as Anitha Ndaharindiye, aged 32, was found in a eucalyptus grove, 200 metres from her home on Mutara hill in the commune of Mutumba of the Karusi province (central-eastern Burundi).

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the body of this mother of five children had been decapitated by unidentified individuals. The motives for the crime have not been elucidated.

The same sources revealed that three men, Damas Barakamfitye, Elie Ndiye and Baryimare, were arrested and detained at the Karusi provincial police station in connection with an investigation.

- In the afternoon of Thursday 6 April 2023, the lifeless body of a National Congress for Freedom (CNL) activist, Gilbert Ndacayisaba, was found, wrapped in a bag, in a eucalyptus forest on the Karungura hill in the Mwumba commune of the Ngozi province (northern Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, Gilbert Ndacayisaba was murdered because of his political affiliation and had been threatened by Imbonerakure members of the youth league of the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) to join their party.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplures the political intolerance of CNDD-FDD militants against opposition party activists with impunity. It calls for an impartial and independent investigation to discover the perpetrators of this assassination and bring them to justice.

- On the night of Friday 7 April 2023, a night watchman at the Buhiga Communal High School in the province of Karusi (central-eastern Burundi) was killed with batons by unidentified persons who then stole a computer, a printer and a photocopier from the office of the headmaster of the school.

According to local sources, the perpetrators broke into the director's office through a hole in the wall.

2. Violations of the right to liberty: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- On the afternoon of Tuesday 4 April 2023, 61 members of a religious congregation called "World's Glory Church of Christ" were arrested in the capital of the province of Ngozi (northern Burundi) by the police and taken to the dungeon of the police station in that province.

According to local sources, all these worshippers were arrested while praying in a house in the Kinyami 2 zone of the provincial capital of Ngozi.

The same sources revealed that all of these 61 faithful, including 29 women, are incarcerated in particularly deplorable conditions and are housed in small, crowded cells.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces these arbitrary arrests which were carried out in violation of the constitution which guarantees freedom of religion as well as freedom of assembly and association (art. 31 and 32). It calls for the immediate release of these people who are arbitrarily and illegally detained.

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.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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.

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