

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 383 PUBLISHED ON 15 APRIL 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 8 to 15 April 2023 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person was murdered during this period in Cibitoke province, as well as two (2) arbitrary arrests in the form of kidnappings orchestrated by the National Intelligence Service (SNR), a service reporting directly to the presidency of the republic.

1. Violation of the right to life

- In the afternoon of Thursday 13 April 2023, a decomposing lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered by soldiers on patrol on the shore of the Rusizi River (border of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo) at the foot of the Mparambo 1 hill in the commune of Rugombo, in the province of Cibitoke (north-western Burundi).

According to local sources, the body of the 60-year-old father of eight, who had been living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for several years, had been decapitated by individuals who had not yet been identified. Local residents pointed the finger at two Imbonerakure (members of the youth league affiliated to the CNDD-FDD party) for being behind the murder of the 60-year-old, who was travelling with them from the Luvungi group in the DRC with a large sum of money at his disposal.

The same sources revealed that the body of the victim was buried on the same day on the orders of the communal administrator of Rugombo, Gilbert Manirakiza.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the recurrent and now intractable phenomenon of bodies abandoned by their executioners and found particularly in the communes of

Rugombo and Buganda 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.

2. Restriction of freedom of movements.

- On 10 April 2023, Pacifique Mahoro, a disability rights activist and employee of Brarudi, was arrested by SNR agents in Ruziba, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province, as he was on his way to the official opening of the centre for the care of disabled children.

He was arrested without a title, without being informed of the reasons for his arrest, detained in a secret place without communication with his family, which is contrary to the provisions of articles 35 and 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Burundi.

- On 11 April 2023, at around 6.30pm, Janvier Ngendakuriyo, a former employee of the National Assembly, was abducted from his home in Gatunguru, Mutimbuzi commune in Bujumbura province.

He was taken away in a Probox car, by people who did not declare their identity, nor reveal the reason for his arrest and was taken to a place that was not communicated to their family; which, in all, is a violation of the provisions of articles 35 and 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Burundi.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS Torture Burundi strongly condemns these inhumane and traumatic methods of arrest and calls on the National Intelligence Service to respect the criminal procedure and thus preserve the free exercise of civil rights of citizens regardless of their political, ethnic or religious affiliation.

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.