

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 386 PUBLISHED ON 6 MAY 2023**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 29 April to 6 May 2023 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least four (4) people were murdered during this period in different parts of the country.

The report also deplores the cases of one (1) person who was tortured by police officers and Imbonerakure in Kirundo province and one (1) person who was tortured by the head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Bubanza province.

Furthermore, the report denounces the arbitrary arrest followed by acts of torture of one (1) activist of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL) by the head of the SNR in Bubanza province.

### **1. Violations of the right to life**

- In the afternoon of Sunday 30 April 2023 around 4 pm, women looking for firewood discovered the decomposing lifeless body of a young girl known as Sandrine Nkunuzimana in a pine tree plantation on the Ruyenzi sub-hill of Muhungu hill, Butahana zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to local sources, the 25-year-old girl from the Kirehe sub-hill of the same Muhungu hill had been missing for a week after she was last seen with a married man named Jean Claude Mfitimana who often went out with her as his girlfriend. The body of the girl was buried on the same day at the place of the macabre discovery on the orders of the local administration.

- On the morning of Wednesday 3 May 2023, the lifeless body of a woman named Séraphine was found under an avocado tree in the capital of Rutana province (south-east Burundi).

According to local sources, the young woman of four children had been missing since the night of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and was wearing only a T-shirt at the time of the dismal discovery.

- On 4 May 2023, Bernard Dusengimana, aged 43, died at the Bishisha health centre in the Gatara zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province (northern Burundi), as a result of torture inflicted on him on charges of mineral theft.

According to local sources, Bernard Dusengimana was severely beaten by members of the presidential party's youth league, police officers and mine workers in the Murehe nature reserve in the Gatara zone. Medical sources confirmed that he died from the injuries a few hours after being evacuated to the Bishisha health centre.

- On the morning of Friday 5 May 2023, at around 11 a.m., the lifeless body of Alain Keisy Irutingabo, a boy aged three and a half, was found in the Kiriba River separating the hills of Nyarubenga and Kigara, in the commune of Nyarusange in the province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to local sources, Alain Keisy Irutingabo was killed and tied up by unidentified criminals before being thrown into the Kiriba River.

The same sources said that the boy had left the family home on the Nyarubenga hill the day before the macabre discovery at around 6.30 pm to go to his grandmother's house in the same locality. The body of the young boy was buried in the afternoon of Friday 5 May without waiting for the opening of an investigation to identify the author of his murder.

SOS-torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrator of the murder of this young child in order to bring him to justice.

### **2. Infringement of the right to physical integrity**

- On 2 May 2023, a man known as Jean Bosco Misago was severely tortured by Imbonerakure (members of the youth league of the ruling party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) in the Murehe nature reserve on the Bishisha hill in the Gatara zone, in the commune of Busoni in the province of Kirundo (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim was severely beaten so that he pissed blood and could neither sit nor stand. Jean Bosco Misago is hospitalised at the Bishiha health centre in a very critical condition.

The same sources said that Jean Bosco Misago was tortured because he was suspected of stealing cassiterite, which is very abundant in the Kirehe nature reserve.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the abuses still attributed to the Imbonerakure throughout the country and calls for the opening of an independent, impartial and credible investigation to arrest the perpetrators of these acts of torture who have been clearly identified by the victim.

### **3. Violation of the right to freedom of movement**

- On the morning of Thursday 4 May 2023, Jean Marie Ndayishimiye, the youth leader of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party on the Musenyi hill in the commune of Mpanda in the province of Bubanza (north-east Burundi), was

arbitrarily arrested in the same locality by the provincial head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR).

According to local sources, after being severely tortured, he was taken to the police cell at the Bubanza police station where he is being held alone in the women's cell!

According to the same sources, the reasons for his arrest have not been communicated to him and he is not allowed to visit.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the abuses committed by SNR agents with impunity and asks the head of department to demand the freedom of a CNL activist imprisoned simply because of his political 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.



## SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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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