

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 391 PUBLISHED ON 10 JUNE 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 3 to 10 June 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least six (6) people were murdered during this period in various parts of the country.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Saturday 3 June 2023 at around 9 p.m., a man known as Emmanuel Musonera, aged 35, was clubbed to death by his wife Evangélique Nshimirimana, aged 30, on the Rugero II hill in the Kirundo rural zone, of the commune and province of Kirundo (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, the couple had spent the day sharing a beer in a local bistro and started quarrelling as soon as they arrived home. The wife then picked up a large stick with which she hit her husband until he lost consciousness. Emmanuel Musonera succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital in Kirundo.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the victim's wife is being held in custody at the Kirundo public prosecutor's office, where she is awaiting trial in a flagrante delicto case.

- On the night of Sunday 4 June 2023, a young man known as Anicet Itangishaka, aged 25, was clubbed to death on the Gashare hill of the Mivo zone, in the commune and province of Ngozi (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, the young man, in a state of inebriation, mistakenly entered a residence rented by a certain Alexis Manishimwe and was beaten to death with a club by the tenant of the house on an allegation of trespassing.

Although the victim was evacuated to a local health facility, he died a few hours after being admitted to emergency.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the alleged perpetrator of the murder has been arrested and taken to the provincial police station for a judicial investigation.

- On the morning of Monday 5 June 2023, at around 8 a.m., the lifeless body of Jean de Dieu Hakizimana, aged 37, was found by farmers in a banana field on the Jerama hill in the Buhindo zone of the Murwi commune, in Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, Jean de Dieu Hakizimana had spent the evening of Sunday 4 June sharing a drink with neighbours in a local bar. He was murdered and decapitated by unidentified assailants on his way home.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough and impartial investigation to identify the perpetrators of this murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Wednesday 7 June 2023, the lifeless body of Master Corporal Vianney Dusabeyezu, a 40-year-old soldier at Mutukura camp in Cankuzo province (eastern Burundi), was found in a room of the "Get-Up" hotel in the province's capital, where he had spent the night in the company of a girl known as Concilie Nimubona, aged 31 and originally from the hill of Kavumu, in the commune and province of Cankuzo.

According to reports from the hotel, one of the hotel staff who made the gruesome discovery alerted the police after discovering a lifeless body in one of the rooms. The cause and circumstances of the death of soldier Vianney Dusabeyezu remain unclear.

The same sources said that Concilie Nimubona had been arrested and taken to a cell in the Cankuzo police station for investigation. On the other hand, the body of Vianney Dusabeyezu, a native of the Gatwaro hill in the commune of Nyarusange, in Gitega province (central Burundi), has been taken to the morgue of the Cankuzo hospital pending identification of the cause of death.

- On the afternoon of Wednesday 7 June 2023 at around 5 p.m., the lifeless, decapitated body of a young girl known as Vanessa Nihoreho, a 15-year-old pupil in year 6 of the Rubirizi primary school, was found on the Rubirizi hill of the Rugajo zone, in the Mugina commune of the Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to family sources, the victim had left on the morning of the same day to draw water from the Bijombo River but never returned home.

SOS-Torture Burundi condemns the upsurge in crime in several parts of the country, particularly in the province of Cibitoke, and calls on the police and administrative authorities to take urgent measures to identify the members of these criminal networks and put them out of action. It calls for a thorough and independent investigation to identify the perpetrators of this horrific murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Friday 9 June 2023, the lifeless body of Louis Ntandikiye, aged 42 and the father of 6 children, was found hanged by rope under an avocado tree, not far from his home on the Mwurire hill of the Bugendana commune, in the Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to local residents, the victim was killed elsewhere and then hanged to simulate a suicide.

Local sources said that the body of Louis Ntandikiye, a modern farmer, was buried on the same day on the orders of the local administration.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-Torture Burundi has noted a new development in certain provinces in connection with cases of bodies being found hanging from trees, usually avocado trees, in rather vague circumstances. In reality, this is a new criminal strategy to disguise the new forms of targeted killings as suicides in order to render any subsequent investigation useless, and thus ensure impunity for the perpetrators.

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.

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