



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 393 PUBLISHED ON 24 JUNE 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 17 to 24 June 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations committed in Burundi.

At least five (5) cases of assassination were documented during this period in different parts of the country.

1. Violations of the right to life

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, Gabriel Ndayishimiye, an activist of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL), died on 7 June 2023 as a result of injuries inflicted on him by four Imbonerakure on the Birohe hill in the commune and province of Gitega (central Burundi), which led to his admission to the Gitega regional hospital, where he died three days later.

According to local sources, on the night of 4 June 2023, Gabriel Ndayishimiye intervened to separate his neighbour Juvénal Ndagijimana, a cook at the provincial police station in Gitega, and his wife, who were arguing. Not satisfied with his neighbour's intervention, Juvénal Ndagijimana then called three other Imbonerakure (members of the CNDD-FDD youth league¹), Aloys Bizimana (one of the local elected representatives), Berchmans Ndayizeye (a farmer) and Daniel Twagirayezu (a bricklayer), who began violently beating Gabriel Ndayishimiye until he was evacuated in a very critical condition to Gitega regional hospital.

According to the same local sources, although one of the torturers, Juvénal Ndagijimana, was temporarily arrested and detained for 12 days (from 5 to 16 June) in the dungeon of the provincial police station in Gitega, his three co-perpetrators remained free and are still walking around without being bothered, despite the crime they committed.

¹ National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy.

SOS-Torture Burundi deploras the impunity that has always surrounded the crimes attributed to the Imbonerakure since the CNDD-FDD came to power and calls for an independent and impartial enquiry to arrest all the perpetrators of this heinous crime and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Sunday 18 June 2023, at around 6.30 a.m., two policemen of the Burundi National Police (PNB) were killed by one of their colleagues, Simplicie Nduwayo, who shot at them at close range inside the police station in the commune of Nyanza-Lac in the province of Makamba (southern Burundi).

According to sources at the police station, the perpetrator of the double murder, who was returning from a night patrol, first shot his colleague, whom he found sitting outside one of the doors to the station's dormitories and who died immediately. The second policeman was shot in the heart as he came out of an office to see what had just happened, and succumbed to his injuries during his evacuation to Nyanza-Lac hospital.

The same sources said that Simplicie Nduwayo was immediately arrested and taken to the Makamba prosecutor's cell to prepare his criminal file, while the bodies of the victims were taken to the morgue at Nyanza-Lac hospital. The motive for this double murder remains unclear.

- On the morning of Tuesday 20 June 2023, the lifeless body of an unidentified young man was discovered in an eggplant field on 15th avenue in the Maramvya zone of the commune of Mutimbuzi, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, the young man's throat was slit by unidentified individuals in circumstances that have yet to be explained.

- On Tuesday 20 June 2023, the lifeless body of a woman known as Alvera Nkurunziza, a 30-year-old mother of five, was found hanging from a rope inside her home on the Karemba hill in the commune of Itaba of the Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, Alvera Nkurunziza was killed elsewhere and her body was tied up and placed inside her house in order to fake suicide. The victim's body was buried the same day on the orders of the local administration, without waiting for an investigation to identify the perpetrators and the circumstances in which the murder was committed.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough investigation to determine the circumstances and the perpetrators of the murder, with a view to bringing them to justice and punishing them in accordance with the law.

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.