

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 394 PUBLISHED ON 1ST JULY 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 24 June to 1st July 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least two (2) people were murdered during this period in the provinces of Bururi and Cibitoke.

The report also deplores the case of one (1) soldier who was seriously injured by a policeman in Bururi province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Monday 26 June 2023, a man known as Baranshamaje, aged 49, was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants on the Fuku sub-hill of the Jenda hill, in the commune of Songa of the Bururi province (southern Burundi).

According to local sources, the motive for the murder of this worker from the commune of Nyarusange in the province of Gitega remains unknown.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the persistence of targeted killings in Bururi province and is calling for a thorough and impartial investigation to identify the perpetrators of this crime in order to bring them to justice and thus curb this criminal phenomenon, which has had a particular impact on the region for the past three months.

- On the night of Thursday 29 June 2023, a member of the Imbonerakure youth league affiliated to the CNDD-FDD party (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy) known as Hagabimana was shot dead by soldiers on night patrol on the Kayange hill in the commune of

Musigati of the Bubanza province (north-west Burundi), a few metres from the edge of the Kibira natural forest.

According to local sources, soldiers on patrol came across two Imbonerakure near the Kibira natural forest and told them to stop. However, they refused to comply, prompting the soldiers to open fire on them. Hagabimana died on the spot, while his companion managed to escape.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On the evening of Tuesday 27 June 2023, Chief Warrant Officer Joachim Bizimana, a soldier assigned to the Non-commissioned Officers School (ESO) in Bururi (southern Burundi), was seriously injured in his right eye in the chief town of Matana commune in the same province of Bururi by a policeman named Corporal Rodrigue Ntiranyibagira.

According to witnesses, Chief Warrant Officer Joachim Bizimana was in a bistro in the centre of Matana before the incident and, when he went out, refused to pay for his drink. It was then that the owner of the bistro called the policeman, who immediately intervened and violently hit the soldier in the face with his police belt.

The same sources said that the victim was rushed to Matana hospital where he is receiving intensive care, while the police agent, Rodrigue Ntiranyibagira, was arrested and taken to the police cell in Matana for investigation.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

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.