

## SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 398 PUBLISHED ON 30 JULY 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from July 22 to 29, 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplors the case of one (1) man who was severely tortured by the communal police commissioner in Rusaka in Mwaro province.

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

- On the morning of July 24, 2023, Ezéchiel Ntahinduka, a young schoolboy aged 14, died in Kirundo hospital as a result of the blows and wounds inflicted on him by a certain Jean Marie Nkurunziza, a member of the Imbonerakure youth league affiliated to the presidential party, the CNDD-FDD , on the Nyakibingo hill in the commune of Ntega, in Kirundo province (northern Burundi).

According to witnesses to the incident, who were afraid to come to the victim's aid, the child was severely beaten on July 15, 2023 by his torturer after seeing him perched on the back of a truck on the road.

The same sources revealed that when the young teenager died, Jean Marie Nkurunziza took off. He had just spent a few days in hiding with an administrative officer at the base on Nyakibingo hill, who was trying to help him escape possible prosecution.

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on the morning of Tuesday July 18, 2023, the lifeless body of Michel Ntunzwenimana, a resident of

Muhanga commune in Kayanza province, was discovered in the Makarira valley in the neighboring Ruhororo commune of Ngozi province (northern Burundi).

According to sources in Muhanga, Michel Ntunzwenimana was last seen on the evening of Sunday July 16, 2023, having a glass of beer with Imbonerakure in a bistro on Rushenza hill in the same commune. Local residents accused the Imbonerakure of having murdered the citizen because of the traces of blood that were seen from the bistro to the Makarira valley (site of the macabre discovery), which separates the communes of Ruhororo and Muhanga.

The same sources deplored the fact that Michel Ntunzwenimana's body was buried the same day in his native commune, without an investigation being launched to identify the perpetrators of his murder, despite the existence of convincing clues.

SOS-Torture Burundi once again denounces the crimes that are regularly committed with impunity by the Imbonerakure, often with the complicity of certain local administrators. It calls on the judiciary to initiate credible and independent investigations to arrest the alleged perpetrators of these crimes and bring them to justice.

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

- On the night of Monday July 24, 2023, a motorcycle cab driver known as Jérôme Ndizeye, nicknamed Rwembe, was violently tortured by Sylvestre Sabushimike, alias Bikovu, Commissar of Police in Rusaka, Mwaro province (central Burundi),

On the way, they came across Sylvestre Sabushimike, who snatched him from his friends' hands and hit him hard, trampling him until he vomited blood and lost consciousness. The victim was subsequently rushed first to the Rusaka health center, then transferred by ambulance to the Fota district hospital, as his condition remained critical.



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

According to the same sources, Sylvestre Sabushimike has not been prosecuted for the crime he committed, nor for other crimes regularly attributed to him by residents of Rusaka commune.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police and judicial authorities to demand a thorough and independent investigation to determine all the crimes attributed to Sylvestre Sabushimike, alias Bikovu, the communal police commissioner in Rusaka, and to punish him in accordance with the law.<sup>1</sup>

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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<sup>1</sup> National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy.