

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 406 PUBLISHED ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 16 to 23 September 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least one (1) person was violently beaten on the University of Burundi's Kamenge campus by an Imbonerakure student in the Faculty of Psychology.

The report also deplores the cases of one person who is being arbitrarily detained by the National Intelligence Service (SNR) after being abducted on the hill of Buringa in the commune of Gihanga of the Bubanza province and three (3) people who were abducted in the Bujumbura city.

1. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- At around 11 p.m. on Sunday 17 September 2023, Médard Nkeshimana, a night watchman at the University of Burundi, was severely beaten unconscious by a student known as Ferdinand Miburo, who is also a member of the Imbonerakure youth league affiliated to the ruling CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party.

According to witnesses, Ferdinand Miburo, a student in the Faculty of Psychology in his 3rd year on the Kamenge campus, beat the night watchman, accusing him of leaving the door open.

The same sources said that students evacuated the victim to the Kamenge University Hospital but had to take him back to the campus after he was refused admission for lack of money.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that Ferdinand Miburo was arrested the following day on the intervention of the Kamenge campus manager and that he was taken to the Ntakangwa commune dungeon for a brief one-day detention. He was released on 19 September 2023 to resume classes.

It calls on the judicial authorities to prosecute Ferdinand Miburo for the acts of torture inflicted on Médard Nkeshimana and other acts of persecution committed against students who are not members of the CNDD-FDD that have been attributed to him in the past.

2. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: abduction followed by arbitrary detention

- On the evening of Friday 15 September 2023, Alexandre Nindorera, alias Buyoya, was abducted by uniformed policemen from a bistro on the Buringa hill in the commune of Gihanga of the Bubanza province (north-west Burundi), and driven to an unknown destination in a van with tinted windows.

According to local sources, after several days of fruitless searching in several dungeons in Bubanza province and Bujumbura city, his wife finally learned that her husband was being held in the dungeon at the headquarters of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). Although she went to the place of detention to enquire about the state of health of her husband, who suffers from a chronic illness, she was not allowed to see him.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the SNR authorities to put a stop to the human rights violations attributed to the officials of the Office under the authority of the President of the Republic and to initiate legal proceedings against the perpetrators.

3. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- Since the evening of Thursday 14 September 2023, a man known as Jean Marie Kazoviyo, living in the Musama district, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, in the Bujumbura city (western Burundi), has been missing.

According to sources in his family, at around 8.30 p.m., Jean Marie Kazoviyo answered a telephone call from someone he was going to meet at the Ethiopian bar in Bujumbura city centre. Since that day, Jean Marie Kazoviyo's family has had no news of his fate.

- On the night of Monday 18 September 2023, Bosco Bitangaro and Bosco Muhimbare were abducted from a bistro in the Kamenge zone by SNR agents in police uniform led by the man nicknamed Rama, and driven away in a vehicle with the registration number HA 1602 to an unknown destination.

Bosco Bitangaro and Bosco Muhimbare have been missing ever since, despite unsuccessful searches by their families in all the dungeons in Bujumbura city.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the SNR's general administration to reveal where Bosco Bitangaro and Bosco Muhimbare are being held and to put an end to the abductions that are often used as arbitrary arrest methods.



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.