

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 407 PUBLISHED ON 01 OCTOBER 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 23 to 30 September 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Cibitoke and Gitega.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On 25 September 2023, the decomposing body of an elderly man named Kagoma (65 years) was discovered in a wooded area on the Gasongati hill in the commune of Bukirasazi of the Gitega province (central Burundi). On the same day, Jean (38 years) was found seriously injured, dying next to his bicycle, on Carire hill of the Bugendana commune in the same province. Unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries after being evacuated to Cunywe hospital in the same administrative district.

According to local sources, the perpetrators and motives for this double murder remain unclear.

- On the evening of Thursday 28 September 2023, the decomposing body of an unidentified man in his forties was discovered by farmers near the Nyakagunda River on the Rubuye sub-hill of the Mparambo I hill, in the Rugombo commune of the Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery in a house under construction, the body of the victim, wearing new clothes and shoes, was tied up and had gaping wounds that were signs of atrocious acts of torture inflicted on him by his torturers before he gave up the ghost.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

The same sources said that the mortal remains had been taken to the morgue at Cibitoke hospital, pending identification.

SOS-Torture Burundi deploras the resurgence of the phenomenon of lifeless bodies in the province of Cibitoke, abandoned mainly in the Rusizi River or its surroundings, committed by people close to those in power who benefit from impunity. It calls on the country's authorities, in this case the President of the Republic, to demand credible and independent investigations to uncover the perpetrators of these recurring murders and thus put a stop to this phenomenon, which has become intractable.

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.