

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 408 PUBLISHED ON 8 OCTOBER 2023**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7 October 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least one (1) woman was murdered in the province of Gitega.

The report also deplores the case of one (1) person who was arbitrarily arrested and placed in detention in an undisclosed location and that of one (1) young man who was abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the province of Bubanza.

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

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on the morning of Friday 29 September 2023, the lifeless body of a woman known as Angèle Barutwanayo, aged 46, was found at her home on the Kibungo hill in the commune of Bugendana of the Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, the body of this woman, a mother of 6, was decapitated and lying in a pool of blood.

The same sources specified that the perpetrators and motives for her murder have not been clarified and that her mortal remains were buried the same day on the decision of the local authorities.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the resurgence of targeted killings in the commune of Bugendana (two women were murdered in similar circumstances in the same week) and calls on the police and judicial authorities to launch investigations to uncover the perpetrators of these bloody crimes with a view to bringing them to justice and punishing them in accordance with the law.

### 2. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrest and detention

- On the afternoon of Tuesday 3 October 2023, Kenny Claude Nduwimana, a "journalist" with Jayce TV, was arrested by policemen at his home in the Buterere zone of the urban commune of Ntahangwa, north of the city of Bujumbura (western Burundi), and taken to a destination as yet unknown.

According to local sources, around fifteen policemen arrived at the home of this "journalist", best known on social networks for his audio recordings promoting ethnic hatred against the Tutsi, to carry out a search and seizure operation. Kenny Claude Nduwimana is being held at an undisclosed location on suspicion of interfering in the workings of the local administration.

### 3. Cases of abduction followed by arbitrary detention

- On the evening of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at around 7 p.m., Floribert Bitangimana was abducted by agents of the SNR (National Intelligence Service) while he was on the Kibenga hill in the Muzinda zone of the Rugazi commune of the Bubanza province (north-west Burundi), very close to the Muzinda military camp.

According to witnesses, Floribert Bitangimana was taken away in a vehicle to an unknown destination. His family then searched all the dungeons in Bubanza province in vain.

However, local sources said that the young man was released on Tuesday 3 October 2023 after being arbitrarily detained for three days in the SNR's cell in Bubanza, without any explanation as to why he had been arrested.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the practice of abductions, which are used as a method of arbitrary arrest of targeted individuals, and calls on the General



## SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

Administration of the National Intelligence Service to put an end to these illegal practices and to scrupulously enforce the rules of the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding the arrest and detention of individuals suspected of having committed criminal offences.

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.