

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 412 PUBLISHED ON 5 NOVEMBER 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 28 October to 4 November 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least one (1) person was murdered during this period in the province of Bubanza.

The report also deplors the case of one (1) CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activist who was abducted by a police officer in Bubanza province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the morning of Monday 30 October 2023, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was found in a rice field in village 5 of the Buringa hill and zone, in the commune of Gihanga of the Bubanza province (western Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, the victim's body had been decapitated by unidentified individuals, who also stripped her of her shoes. The body of the victim was taken to the morgue of Bubanza hospital by the administrator of Gihanga commune, but no investigation has been launched to identify the victim and the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough investigation to find the perpetrators of the murder and bring them to justice.

2. Kidnapping or enforced disappearance

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, last Friday, 27 October 2023, at around 6 p.m., a butcher and activist of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL) known as Jérôme Ndikuriyo was abducted from the

12th avenue of the Buringa hill and zone in the commune of Gihanga of the Bubanza province (north-west Burundi) by the local police commissioner in Gihanga, called Marc.

According to witnesses, Jérôme Ndikuriyo, from Gitega province in central Burundi, was taken away in a police pick-up truck to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the resurgence of kidnappings committed by officers of the Burundi National Police and calls on the police authorities to reveal the fate of Jérôme Ndikuriyo and to take administrative and criminal sanctions against the perpetrators of these offences, including the local police commissioner in Gihanga, in order to discourage this criminal phenomenon which is becoming the *modus operandi* for arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances.

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.