

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 414 PUBLISHED ON 19 NOVEMBER 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 November 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least two (2) people were murdered in the province of Kirundo and in Bujumbura town hall.

The report also deplores the cases of two (2) people who were tortured by Imbonerakure in the provinces of Bubanza and Rumonge.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Sunday 12 November 2023, the lifeless body of a young man named Fabrice was found by the side of the road in the Kavogero district of the commune and province of Kirundo (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, Fabrice was severely tortured on 10 November 2023 with a concrete iron by an electromechanical Imbonerakure named Aristide after he was caught breaking down the door of his vehicle.

The same sources said that Aristide evacuated the victim to Kirundo hospital after the police refused to take him into custody because of his very critical state of health, but refused to pay the bail required to provide him with treatment and left him in hospital. So Fabrice, afraid of being charged for the treatment he received, decided to escape from Kirundo hospital on 12 November despite his very fragile state of health.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the police and judicial authorities to prosecute the torturer for the crime of torture that led to Fabrice's death.

- On the morning of Wednesday 14 November 2023, the lifeless body of a man nicknamed Rubati was found at his home in the Mutanga-Nord district in the Ntahangwa commune of Bujumbura city (western Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, the victim's body had been stabbed by unidentified individuals.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the police to conduct a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of the crime and bring them to justice.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity: cases of torture

- On the morning of Sunday 12 November 2023, at around 11.30 a.m., a woman in her sixties known as Concilie Mbandagare was severely tortured by two Imbonerakure men, Bienvenu Nkorerimana and Obède, at her home in village 6 in the commune of Gihanga of the Bubanza province (north-west Burundi).

According to witnesses, the two Imbonerakure burst into the victim's home and violently beat and seriously injured her, accusing her of having denounced the embezzlement of funds from the Urumuri rice cooperative by its former manager, Pasteur Hakizimana, alias Gihugu.

The same sources said that the victim's life was in danger because she had no money to pay for treatment for her injuries.

- On the night of Tuesday 14 November 2023 at around 11 p.m., a young girl known as Mireille Muhoza, aged 19, was severely tortured in the Mugomere district in the commune and province of Rumonge (south-west Burundi) by a group of eight Imbonerakure led by police non-commissioned officer Thierry Hatungimana alias Kiroho, who is also the leader of the Imbonerakure youth league in the Mugomere district.

According to local sources, Mireille Muhoza was ambushed by these Imbonerakure armed with machetes and clubs as she was returning home from hospital in Rumonge to assist her ailing mother. They beat her severely, wounding her in the face and even tore off her clothes, in an attempt to punish her for coming home late.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the violation of constitutional, legal, deontological and ethical rules governing the profession of members of the defence and security corps committed by former members of armed political parties and movements (PMPA) integrated within these corps, more particularly those from the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Forces for the Defense of Democracy), who still act as militants of this party. The Constitution (art. 250) and the organic and ordinary laws governing these corps formally prohibit members of the defence and security corps from "*manifesting their political preferences*", "*being members of a political party or association of a political nature*" or "*participating in activities or demonstrations of a political nature*".

It calls on the police and judicial authorities to open an investigation to identify all those responsible for the acts of torture committed against the young girl and the elderly woman and to punish them in accordance with the law.



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.