

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 413 PUBLISHED ON 12 NOVEMBER 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 4 to 11 November 2023 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the case of one (1) girl who was raped and seriously injured in the province of Gitega, as well as the case of two (2) activists from the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) and FRODEBU (Front for Democracy in Burundi) parties who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in the provinces of Bujumbura and Rutana.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On 6 November 2023, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered on the shore of Lake Tanganyika in the commune of Nyanza-lac of the Makamba province (southern Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, the victim's body was lying in a sand extraction area close to the commune's main town, and the mortal remains were taken to the morgue at Nyanza-lac hospital pending identification procedures.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the police and judicial authorities to open an immediate investigation into the perpetrators and circumstances of this murder.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity and rape

- On the night of Monday 7 November 2023, a girl known as Concilie Butoyi was seriously injured by unidentified assaulters at her home in the Gasunu sub-hill on Rushanga hill, in the commune of Bugenda of the Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, Concilie Butoyi's neighbours noticed that the back door of the house was open and began calling for the victim without success. They then went inside the house to find the victim lying in a pool of blood in a very critical condition, with gaping wounds to the head and neck.

According to the same sources, the victim was also raped before being stabbed, and was evacuated the following morning to the VISPE¹ health centre in the Mutoyi zone of the same Bugenda commune.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the upsurge in crime in certain communes in the province of Gitega and calls on the police and judicial authorities to launch investigations to identify the perpetrators of the crimes committed and bring them to justice so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

3. Violations of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- On the afternoon of Saturday 4 November 2023, at around 6 p.m., a CNL party activist known as Jean Pierre Nzoyisaba, alias Derenganya, was arbitrarily arrested on the Butezi hill in the commune of Giharo of the Rutana province (south-east Burundi).

According to witnesses, Jean Pierre Nzoyisaba was arrested in a local club by a group of Imbonerakure led by a certain Athanase Bigirimana, communal representative of the Imbonerakure youth league affiliated to the CNDD-FDD² party, on accusations of his former membership of this ruling party.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the administrative and police authorities to punish the abuses attributed to the Imbonerakure, who believe they can do whatever they

¹ *Volontari Italiani Solidarietà Paesi Emergenti (Italian solidarity volunteers in emerging countries).*

² *National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy*

like, in order to re-establish the constitutional principle of equality of all citizens before the law (art. 13 of the Constitution).

- In the early hours of Thursday 9 November 2023, at around 4.30 a.m., a primary school teacher at Muhuta I, known as Ildephonse Nderagakura, was arrested at his home on the Gitaza hill in the commune of Muhuta of the Bujumbura province (western Burundi) by policemen accompanied by young Imbonerakure.

According to sources from his family, Ildephonse Nderagakura was accused of not having a toilet with a seat inside his house. However, according to sources in his neighbourhood, the victim was arrested because of his activism in the FRODEBU party and that his arrest was part of acts of intimidation to force him to join the CNDD-FDD party.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police authorities to release the victim without delay and to punish those responsible for the unjust deprivation of liberty in accordance with the law.

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.