

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 433 PUBLISHED ON 31 MARCH 2024**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 23 to 30 March 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least four (4) people were murdered in different parts of the country.

The report also deplores the case of three (3) people from the same family who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in the province of Mwaro and that of one (1) person who was abducted in the Bujumbura city.

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

- On the morning of Sunday 24 March 2024, two lifeless bodies of unidentified decapitated man and woman were found respectively on the Sehe hill in the Masango zone and on the Kiruhura hill in the Ndora zone, in the commune of Bukinanyana of the Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to local sources, the circumstances and perpetrators of the double murder have not been determined.

The same sources believed that the victims had been killed elsewhere and that their bodies had been dumped there in order to erase any traces that could be used in a subsequent investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the increase in cases of targeted killings in the commune of Bukinanyana and calls for thorough and impartial investigations to identify the perpetrators of these crimes and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Monday 25 March 2024, the lifeless body of Apollinaire Nduwimana, a teacher at the Bukingi primary school on the Busangana hill of the the Kibimba zone, in the commune of Giheta of the Gitega province (central Burundi), was found in the latrines of the Busangana Adventist Church.

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, the body of Apollinaire Nduwimana showed injuries and signs of torture. He was clubbed to death on the night of 25 March 2024 by unidentified individuals as he was returning home.

- On the morning of Thursday 28 March 2024, the lifeless body of a man in his sixties named Cassien Baricamwo was found in the Butwe market in the commune of Gatara of the Kayanza the province (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, the body of Cassien Baricamwo, a night watchman at Butwe market, was found outside the shop he was guarding. He had been strangled by as yet unidentified individuals who had also broken into the shop before fleeing.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for thorough and impartial investigations to identify the perpetrators of these crimes and punish them in accordance with the law.

## **2. Violations of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions**

- On Monday 25 March 2024, an elderly man known as Etienne Kana and his two children, Belyse (16) and Dora (15), both still at school, were arbitrarily arrested by the police on the Mpumbu hill in the Rusaka zone and commune, in the province of Mwaro (central Burundi), on the orders of the governor of the province, Colonel Gaspard Gasanzwe, and taken to the Rusaka commune cell.

According to local sources, the governor of Mwaro, who is also Etienne Kana's nephew, wants to extort from this family a piece of land located on the Mpumbu hill

following the division of inheritance assets carried out by family consensus in 2009. The same sources said that at the time of their arrest, police agents roughed up Etienne Kana and that he was subsequently evacuated to Ijenda hospital in the neighbouring commune of Mugongo-Manga in the province of Bujumbura.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the two pupils were released on 27 March 2024 after spending two days in arbitrary detention. SOS-Torture Burundi condemns the abuse of authority by Colonel Gaspard Gasanzwe, which is punishable in other countries by administrative and even criminal penalties.

### 3. Kidnapping or enforced disappearance

- On the morning of Wednesday 27 March 2024, a man known as Samuel Bukuru was abducted by men in civilian clothes, but armed with guns, opposite the International School in the Kinanira zone of the Muha commune, in the Bujumbura city (central Burundi).

According to witnesses, Samuel Bukuru, from the commune of Mutaho in the province of Gitega (central Burundi), was abducted by agents of military intelligence (G2), as a soldier named Habonimana working in this service was identified among the kidnappers.

SOS-Torture Burundi condemns the resurgence of kidnappings, particularly those carried out by the G2, which have resurfaced after a period of calm. It calls on the General Staff of Burundi's National Defence Force to communicate the fate of Samuel Bukuru and to proceed with his release.



## 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 set up to inform 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 provide information on the realities of the country followed the carnage of around a hundred people killed on 11 December and 12 December 2015 by police and soldiers on the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps on the outskirts of the capital.

The areas affected are said to be those contesting President Nkurunziza's third term in office, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the centre of Bujumbura town hall. 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.

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