



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 431 PUBLISHED ON 17 MARCH 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 9 to 17 March 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also deplores the cases of seven (7) people, including six activists from Agathon Rwasa's CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party, who were arbitrarily arrested in the provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi and Rumonge, as well as the case of one (1) other activist from this party who was abducted in the province of Muyinga.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the afternoon of Saturday 9 March 2024, at around 4 p.m., the lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered on the Ndurumu River at the foot of the Gashanga hill, in the Bugenyuzi district and commune of the Karusi province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim's body was uninjured and was taken to the Buhiga hospital mortuary to await identification for burial.

- On Monday 11 March 2024, the lifeless body of a taximan known as Emmanuel Ndagijimana was found in the morgue of the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic after having been reported missing since the evening of last Thursday 7 March 2023.

According to sources in his family, the victim's body was found in the hospital morgue after reports of a body being found in the Ruziba district, close to the Kanyosha cemetery in Bujumbura city. The perpetrators of Emmanuel Ndagijimana's murder have not been identified, and his vehicle is still missing.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the upsurge in targeted killings in several parts of the country and calls for thorough investigations to identify the perpetrators so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

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

- On the morning of Saturday 9 March 2024 at around 8 a.m., a retired ex-FAB (Burundian Armed Forces) soldier known as Gordien Nkurunziza was arbitrarily arrested by the police at his home on Mujigo hill in the commune of Buyengero of the Rumonge province (south-west Burundi).

According to local sources, Gordien Nkurunziza was arrested by the Buyengero communal police commissioner after the head of the Imbonerakure youth league on Mujigo hill, Alexis Nimpagaritse, mobilised several Imbonerakure to spend the whole of Friday night watching over the victim's enclosure, who had just returned home because he had a job outside Rumonge province. After his arrest, Gordien Nkurunziza was taken to the local police station in Buyengero before being transferred late the same afternoon to the provincial police station in Rumonge.

The same sources said that Gordien Nkurunziza had been accused without proof of involvement in the armed movements.

- On Sunday 10 March 2024, six members of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party were arbitrarily arrested in the towns of Ngozi and Kayanza (northern Burundi) by police agents and Imbonerakure. Agnès Nibirantije (president of the women's league in the new province of Butanyerera), Cyriaque Hasabumutima (president of the youth league in the commune of Kayanza) and Goreth Nyandwi (president of the women's league in the Kayanza district) were arrested outside the Hotel Oasis, where a congress of dissidents from the party was being held to elect new leaders, and were taken to an unknown destination.

Three other CNL activists were arrested in Kayanza province. Crescent Bivugire was arrested at around 12 noon in front of the "Le Pélican" bakery and taken to the police station in Kayanza before being released at around 2 p.m. Aimable Nkunzumwami (president of the national youth league) and the MP, Donathile, were arrested by the Kayanza provincial police commissioner, Pascal Nshimirimana, and taken to the police lock-up.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the congress held by dissidents from the CNL party under the aegis of the CNDD-FDD party (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy) has resulted in the dismissal of Agathon Rwasa, until then president and legal representative of the CNL. It deplors the anti-democratic strategy of the ruling party to divide the opposition parties with the apparent intention of going it alone in the forthcoming electoral processes of 2025 and 2027.

3. Kidnapping or enforced disappearance

- At around 1 p.m. on Wednesday 13 March 2024, Jacqueline Uwizeyimana, president of the CNL in the new province of Buhumuza, was abducted by police colonel Félix Havyarimana, provincial head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the province of Muyinga (north-east Burundi), who took her to an unknown destination.

According to witnesses, Jacqueline Uwizeyimana, who is also a teacher at the Rubenga ECOFO (basic school) in the commune of Giteranyi in the same province, was abducted on her way home from work and taken away in a SNR white Toyota Hilux double cab pick-up truck with tinted windows, registration number E0535A.

Sources within the CNL said that Jacqueline Uwizeyimana had been seen on 10 March 2024 in Ngozi province at the site where the party's dissident congress was held.



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SOS-Torture Burundi fears that Jacqueline Uwizeyimana's abduction will subsequently be transformed into an enforced disappearance, especially as police colonel Félix Havyarimana is known to have committed several abuses, including numerous enforced disappearances, and is asking the SNR's General Administration to communicate the fate of this CNL activist.

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.