

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 437 PUBLISHED ON 28 APRIL 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 20 to 27 April 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Cibitoke, Gitega and Rumonge.

1. Violations of the right to life

- At around 11 a.m. on Saturday 20 April 2024, farmers discovered the lifeless body of a man known as Bernard Harushamagara, aged 60, on the Mbaza-Miduha sub-hill on the Rukana 2 hill, in the commune of Rugombo of the Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, Bernard Harushamagara's body was lying in a pool of blood, with wounds on his head indicating that he had been clubbed to death by persons as yet unidentified.

Sources in his family said that Bernard Harushamagara had spent Friday evening in a local bistro and was murdered on his way home.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the continuing cases of targeted killings in Cibitoke province. It is calling for a thorough and profound investigation to identify the perpetrators of this heinous crime and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Tuesday 23 April 2024, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was found hanging from a tree on the Korane hill in the commune of Giheta of the Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the naked body of the deceased, aged around forty, was hanging from a rope made of mosquito netting, around ten metres from the RN2, not far from the main town of the commune.

The same sources said that the victim's burnt clothes and shoes were found at the foot of the tree from which the body was hanging. Local residents believe that the victim was killed elsewhere and that his body was hanged there to simulate suicide and thus throw any subsequent investigation off track.

SOS-Torture Burundi is asking the local police to open an investigation to identify the victim and the perpetrators of the crime so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On the afternoon of Tuesday 23 April 2024, the lifeless body of an unidentified man in his forties was discovered on the shore of the Murembwe River, in the commune and province of Rumonge (south-west Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, the victim's body was naked and had begun to decompose. He was buried on the same day on the orders of the local authorities, without waiting for an investigation to be launched to identify the victim and the circumstances of his death.



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.