

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 445 PUBLISHED ON 23 JUNE 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 15 to 22 June 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least three (3) people were murdered in the province of Cibitoke.

The report also deplores the case of two (2) people who were abducted in the province of Muramvya and in Bujumbura city.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Saturday 15 June 2024, three lifeless bodies of decomposing men, one of whom was identified as Thaddée Nizigiyimana, were discovered in a cassava field by farmers on the hills of Mparambo (1 body) and Nyamitanga (2 bodies) in the respective communes of Rugombo and Buganda in the province of Cibitoke (north-west Burundi).

According to the witnesses to the macabre discovery, the three bodies were tied up and lying not far from the Rusizi river separating Burundi from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The same sources said that the bodies were hastily buried on the same day on the orders of the local authorities in the two border communes.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the persistence of the recurring phenomenon of lifeless bodies abandoned, then found, in the wild, far from their homes where it is not possible to identify them quickly. This phenomenon is a sign of impunity for the perpetrators, who would be identifiable among certain security agents, and more

particularly the National Intelligence Service (SNR), if there were a firm will to open subsequent investigations.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on the afternoon of Wednesday 5 June 2024, at around 2 p.m., Edouard Ndayisenga, a teacher at Hosanna High School in the main town of the commune of Rutegama, in the province of Muramvya (central Burundi), was abducted on his way home by three men in a vehicle with tinted windows, who drove him to an unknown destination.

According to local sources, his family has no news of the fate of this teacher, who is also a member of the CNDD-FDD party¹.

- On the evening of Tuesday 18 June 2024, at around 6.30 p.m., a taximan known as Claude Nahimana was abducted in the Kamenge zone of the commune of Ntahangwa, in Bujumbura city (western Burundi).

According to family sources, Claude Nahimana, originally from Nzove hill in Mutaho commune, Gitega province (driver of a Toyota Probox wagon with the number K6995A on number plates), told his family by telephone that he was at the "Iwabo n'abantu" bar but that he would later go down to Cibitoke.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the upsurge in kidnappings in recent days and calls on the country's authorities to take appropriate measures to put an end to this criminal phenomenon, which is plunging the families of victims into mourning as they wait desperately for the uncertain return of their loved ones.

¹ Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie.



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 city.