



SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 443 PUBLISHED ON 9 JUNE 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 1 to 8 June 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least two (2) people were murdered in the provinces of Gitega and Makamba.

The report also deplores the case of one (1) person who was arbitrarily arrested and detained in the province of Cibitoke and that of another (1) person who was abducted in the Bujumbura city.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Sunday 2 June 2024, the lifeless body of Selemani Ciza, aged 41, was found at 1st avenue in the Magarama district of the Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, Selemani Ciza's body bore several wounds on the head, legs and arms, proving that he had succumbed to horrific acts of torture. He had been arrested the previous day in Magarama by members of the security committee, who violently beat him to death with clubs on suspicion, without proof, of being part of a group of bandits in the locality.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a credible investigation to identify the perpetrators of Selemani Ciza's murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the afternoon of Tuesday 4 June 2024, at around 4 p.m., a young man known as Jean Bosco Dukundane, aged 28, was shot dead by a policeman at the Mukubano hill market in the Muyange zone of the Nyanza-lac commune, in the province of Makamba (southern Burundi).

According to witnesses to the horrific scene, policemen from a position in the locality were attempting to illegally seize motorbike taxis in the car park of the Mukubano market when they encountered resistance from the drivers of the motorbike taxis, supported by local merchants. Policemen then fired in the air to intimidate the population, but one of them shot Jean Bosco Dukundane at point-blank range, who died as the population tried to evacuate him to a local health facility.

According to the same sources, policemen in this locality regularly seize motorbikes for no valid reason, and the seized motorbikes are only returned after payment of a sum of between one hundred thousand (100,000) and two hundred thousand Burundian francs (200,000 Fbu), without receipt.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the abusive use of firearms by certain police officers in defiance of the basic principles of the legal use of restraint, which they are supposed to have mastered as part of the various training courses organised for Burundi National Police (PNB) personnel. It calls for a credible and independent investigation with a view to punishing the murderer in accordance with the law.

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

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on the morning of Friday 31 May 2024, at around 6 a.m., a shopkeeper known as Jean Claude Bizimana, alias Vyagizimana, was arbitrarily arrested by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), who found him in his shop on transversale 2 of Munyika I hill, in the commune of Rugombo of the Cibitoke province (north-west Burundi).

According to witnesses, Jean Claude Bizimana, the father of six children, was taken in handcuffs to the SNR cell in Cibitoke, where he has since been tortured and is in a critical condition.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the SNR authorities to order an end to the torture of Jean Claude Bizimana, who should be released immediately. It is also asking them to initiate administrative and criminal proceedings against the provincial head of the SNR in Cibitoke for the acts of torture inflicted on Jean Claude Bizimana, alias Vyagizimana, on a daily basis.

3. Kidnapping or enforced disappearance

- On the afternoon of Friday 7 June 2024, at around 1 p.m., a young man known as Jean-Marie Bizimungu, aged 30, was abducted from a place called Chanic, in the Bujumbura city (western Burundi), by three men in PNB uniforms and was driven *manu militari* in a Toyota Probox car to an unknown destination.

According to witnesses, Jean-Marie Bizimungu (see photo below), originally from the commune of Gihanga in the province of Bubanza and resident at 7th avenue of Mutakura in the Bujumbura city, was abducted as he was distributing food to the shepherds looking after his cows in a stable near Chanic.



Sources in his family said that since Jean-Marie Bizimungu's abduction, his relatives have searched for him in various dungeons, without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the upsurge in kidnappings carried out by PNB or SNR agents, most of whose victims are subsequently reported missing. It is calling on the President of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye, to put a stop to this criminal phenomenon, which has remained intractable for several years.

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.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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.

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