

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 444 PUBLISHED ON 16 JUNE 2024**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 8 to 15 June 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Kayanza and Makamba.

The report also deplores the case of one (1) person who was severely tortured by Imbonerakure in the province of Bubanza.

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

- On the morning of Saturday 8 June 2024, a man known as Joseph Habiyaemye, aged 30, was shot dead by the Kabarore local police commissioner, Moïse Arakaza alias Nyeganyega, on the Karama hill in the same commune, in the province of Kayanza (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, before he was murdered, Joseph Habiyaemye (a CNDD-FDD<sup>1</sup> party activist from the Mpungenge sub-hill on the Mugoyi hill in the commune of Kabarore) was arrested at his home by police agents led by Commissioner Moïse Arakaza alias Nyeganyega after an unsuccessful search on allegations of fraudulent possession of coffee. Moïse Arakaza then took Joseph Habiyaemye to a pine forest on the Karama hill on the border with the Republic of Rwanda and shot him through the heart.

The same sources stated that Moïse Arakaza alias Nyeganyega remains free despite his self-confessed heinous crime.

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<sup>1</sup> National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy.

SOS-Torture Burundi deploras the impunity for numerous crimes, including bloodshed crimes, committed by Moïse Arakaza alias Nyeganyega, particularly in the communes of Matana, Bururi, Mugamba, Kabezi, Mutambu, Mabanda and Makamba, where he was successively posted.

- In the space of less than 24 hours, two detainees, Jérôme Ndikuriyo and Faustin Nshimirimana, died in the dungeon of the Makamba public prosecutor's office (southern Burundi) after being refused permission for treatment.

According to witnesses, Jérôme Ndikuriyo died in the early hours of Tuesday 11 June 2024, while Faustin Nshimirimana gave up the ghost in the early hours of the following day, at around 3 a.m.

According to the same sources, both victims were detained in connection with family disputes over land ownership.

SOS-Torture Burundi deploras the violation of the rights of detainees, including the right to health, and calls for a credible investigation to determine who is responsible, with a view to criminal or administrative prosecution of those responsible.

## 2. Infringement of the right to physical integrity

- On the morning of Monday 10 June 2024, at around 6 a.m., Elias Djuma, a night watchman at the Buramata Local High School in the commune of Gihanga of the Bubanza province (north-west Burundi), was severely tortured by a group of Imbonerakure<sup>2</sup> led by Evarsite Bazombanza on unsubstantiated accusations that he had stolen 50 kg of paddy rice from a shed belonging to a rice growers' cooperative in Buramata.

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<sup>2</sup> League of young people affiliated to the CNDD-FDD party.

According to witnesses, these Imbonerakure took Elias Djuma inside the shed and violently beat him so that he would confess to having stolen the rice. They seriously injured him but, despite the haemorrhage, Evariste Bazompora refused to take Elias Djuma to hospital.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the perpetrators of the deliberate bodily harm inflicted on Elias Djuma remain free despite the crime committed. It is calling on the courts to initiate criminal proceedings against the perpetrators of these acts of torture so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

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.