



## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 446 PUBLISHED ON 30 JUNE 2024**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 22 to 29 June 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

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

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

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on the morning of Wednesday 19 June 2024 a man known as Rénovât Nduwimana, alias Pomo, was clubbed to death by a group of five Imbonerakure who caught him stealing oil palm bunches on the Gatagura hill in the commune of Mpanda of Bubanza province (north-west Burundi).

According to local sources, the perpetrators fled as soon as they learned that the police were searching for them following a complaint from the victim's family.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the Bubanza police to actively seek out the perpetrators of this crime so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

-<sup>er</sup>On the morning of Sunday 23 June 2024, the lifeless body of 1 Police Sergeant Lionel Bizozza, aged 34, was found lying in the Karonga stream at the foot of the Rukoba hill in the commune and province of Gitega (central Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery (see photo below), the body was lying under the bridge next to a motorbike.



Sources in his family believe that Lionel Bizoza was killed elsewhere and that his body and motorbike were dumped in this stream to simulate an accident and thus distort any subsequent investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough and independent investigation to identify the circumstances and perpetrators of Lionel Bizoza's death, so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Tuesday 25 June 2024, the lifeless body of 46-year-old Emmanuel Nduwimana was found floating on the waters of Lake Tanganyika near the port of Rumonge, in the Kanyenkoko district of the capital of this south-western province of Burundi.

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, the body of Emmanuel Nduwimana, a hotel clerk in the locality, showed no injuries.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for an investigation to be opened to determine the circumstances of the victim's death and to punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law.

## 2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On the morning of Saturday 22 June 2024, the director of the STAMM Foundation Clinic, Dieudonné Hakizimana, was abducted by SNR ( National Intelligence Service) agents from a service station in Kamenge opposite Interbank Burundi in the commune of Ntakangwa, north of the economic capital Bujumbura (western Burundi), and was driven to an unknown destination in their service vehicle.

According to family sources, Dr Dieudonné Hakizimana was released at around midnight on the same day after a lengthy interrogation by SNR officers.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the SNR's General Administration to put an end to the phenomenon of arrests in the form of abductions, which is becoming the modus operandi for deprivation of liberty within this service, which has a less than stellar past and yet reports directly to the Presidency of the Republic of Burundi.

- <sup>1</sup>On the afternoon of Saturday 22 June 2024, at around 6 p.m., a young man known as Alexis Tuyishime, aged 26, was abducted by the head of the Imbonerakure in Muyinga province, Shabani Nimubona, accompanied by another Imbonerakure known as Isaac Nemeyimana alias Rastacar, on the Nyakabiga hill in the Ruzo zone, in the commune of Giteranyi of Muyinga province (north-east Burundi).

According to witnesses, Alexis Tuyishime (see photo below), a native of the Kijumbura hill in the Masaka zone in the same commune of Giteranyi, was abducted when he had just finished praying in a church in the Ruzo locality where

---

<sup>1</sup> A league of young people affiliated to the CNDD-FDD party (Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie).

his uncle, Samuel Nyandwi, lives. He was then driven off in a Toyota Probox to an unknown destination.

Local sources said that Alexis Tuyishime was an activist with the MSD party (Movement for Solidarity and Democracy) before taking refuge in Rwanda in 2015 and returning to his homeland in 2021.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the persistence of cases of abduction, most often followed by enforced disappearance, and calls on the Head of State, Evariste Ndayishimiye, to put an end to the phenomenon of abductions, which has become intractable since the CNDD-FDD ("National Council for the Defence of Democracy- Forces for the Defence of Democracy") party came to power.





## 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.

# SOS-TORTURE