

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 450 PUBLISHED 28 JULY 2024

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

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

1. Violations of the right to life

- On the night of Saturday 20 July 2024, a widow known as Colette Nduwimana, aged 69, was murdered with a machete by unidentified individuals who found her at her home on the Myave hill in the Ndora zone of the Bukinanyana commune in the province of Cibitoke (north-west Burundi).

Witnesses to the macabre discovery said they had been alerted by the moans of the victim, who had been found sleeping.

The same sources said that Colette Nduwimana lived alone with her 22-year-old grandson and that she had just won a case at the Cibitoke High Court in a land dispute with relatives.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the continuing cases of targeted killings in Cibitoke province and calls for a thorough and impartial investigation to identify the motives and perpetrators of the murder of Colette Nduwimana so that they can be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Sunday 21 July 2024, the lifeless body of Ferdinand Hatungimana, aged 35, was found not far from his home on the Manyama hill in

the Buhoro zone of the Mabayi commune in the province of Cibitoke (north-west Burundi).

According to residents of Manyama, men in military uniform, including Imbonerakure¹, took the victim's mortal remains to the scene of the grisly discovery on Saturday night.

Local sources said that Ferdinand Hatungimana, also a member of the Imbonerakure league, had joined the CNDD-FDD in 2022 after having been a member of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party for some time.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for an investigation to be opened to determine the circumstances and the perpetrators of Ferdinand Hatungimana's murder, so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- In the early hours of Monday 22 July 2024, at around 3 a.m., the lifeless body of Venant Niyongabo, aged 39, was discovered in a bar called CRC (Community Recreation Centre) located in the Birimba district, in the capital of the commune and province of Rumonge (south-western Burundi).

According to CRC bar staff, Venant Niyongabo was in the company of two women with whom he was sharing a drink. However, the cause and circumstances of Venant Niyongabo's death have yet to be determined.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough investigation to determine the cause and perpetrators of Venant Niyongabo's murder, so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

¹ Members of the Imbonerakure youth league affiliated to the ruling CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy).



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 of office, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the centre of Bujumbura city.

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