

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 453 PUBLISHED ON 18 AUGUST 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 10 to 17 August 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Sunday 11 August 2024, a man known as Diomède Bankakaje (see photo below) from the hill of Munanira I in the commune of Rutegama of the Muramvya province (central Burundi), died in Kibimba hospital, where he had been evacuated following injuries inflicted on him the same day by a policeman called Pascal Bigirimana in a local bistro.



According to witnesses, Diomède Bankakaje had been invited by a friend to share a glass of beer in a bistro on Munanira I hill. After a while, policeman Pascal Bigirimana burst into the bistro and began violently beating the victim, for no apparent reason, until he lost consciousness. Although Diomède Bankakaje was rushed to the Marumane health centre near the scene of the crime and then transferred to Kibimba hospital, he did not survive the beatings and injuries inflicted on him by the policeman (see photo below).



SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for the arrest of policeman Pascal Bigirimana so that he can be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Tuesday 13 August 2024, two lifeless bodies of unidentified men were discovered on the Busoro hill in the zone, commune and province of Ngozi (northern Burundi).

According to local sources, the two men were killed the previous night on the neighbouring Rugori hill in the Busiga commune (same province) and their bodies



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were dumped at the site of their grisly discovery in order to falsify a subsequent investigation. Brick manufacturers on the Busoro hill claimed to have heard cries of distress coming from the Rugori hill during the night of 12 August 2024.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough investigation to identify the victims and perpetrators of the double murder in order to bring them to justice and punish them 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.