

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 451 PUBLISHED 4 AUGUST 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 27 July to 3 August 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least four (4) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura, Cibitoke and Ruyigi and one (1) person was seriously injured with a machete in the province of Ruyigi.

The same report deplors the cases of two (2) people who were abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Bujumbura city.

1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on the night of Friday 26 July 2024, at around 11 p.m., a woman known as Godelieve Ndikumagenge was murdered with machetes by unidentified individuals, while her husband, Pascal Kabura, was seriously injured during the attack, which took place at their home on the Kivumu hill in the commune of Butaganzwa of the Ruyigi province in eastern Burundi.

According to local sources, the couple, aged 50, were suspected of witchcraft.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Wednesday 31 July 2024, the lifeless body of a cow trader known as Samuel Kabuye, aged 71, was decapitated with a machete by unidentified individuals who had ambushed him on the Remera hill in the commune of Murwi, in the province of Cibitoke (north-west Burundi).

According to local sources, Samuel Kabuye was attacked by his assailants on his way to buy cows in the neighbouring commune of Bukinyana, in the same province of Cibitoke, and they also stole his money, worth four million Burundi francs.

The same sources said that Samuel Kabuye was attacked by Imbonerakure with the complicity of other cow traders who knew his habits.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough and impartial investigation to identify the perpetrators and the motive behind this despicable crime, so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Friday 2 August 2024, at around 9 a.m., two lifeless bodies of unidentified men were discovered near Bujumbura airport in the Rukaramu zone of Mutimbuzi commune, in Bujumbura province (western Burundi).

According to witnesses to the macabre discovery, the two decomposing bodies were buried on the same day at around 2 p.m. on the orders of the Mutimbuzi commune administrator, Siméon Butoyi.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the haste with which the administrative authorities are taking the decision to hastily bury the lifeless bodies of unidentified people discovered in the wild instead of giving priority to investigations to identify the perpetrators and victims.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On the afternoon of Tuesday 30 July 2024, at around 2 p.m., a young man known as Désiré Manirampa, aged 26, was abducted by SNR (National Intelligence Service) agents on the RN 5 in the Kiyange district of the Buterere zone, in the Ntahangwa commune of Bujumbura city (western Burundi) and taken to an unknown destination.

According to witnesses to his abduction, Désiré Manirampa, who lives on the Karurama hill in the commune of Rugombo, in the province of Cibitoke, was intercepted by SNR agents on his way to Bujumbura city in his father's Proxy vehicle (F5673A) to buy building materials for his house in the Kigobe district in the same province of Cibitoke. These SNR agents ambushed him in their double-cabin vehicle with tinted windows, in which they took him and the vehicle he was driving to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi condemns the upsurge in cases of abduction by SNR agents and calls on the SNR authorities to reveal the fate of Désiré Manirampa, who is at risk of enforced disappearance, as in many cases documented in reports by civil society organisations and the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.

-On the afternoon of Thursday 1 August 2024, at around 12. 45, a professional photographer known as Edwin Dwima (see photo below) was abducted by the police and ruthlessly taken to an unknown destination.



According to witnesses, Edwin Dwima had just taken a photo of the presidential motorcade on the UPRONA¹ boulevard.

SOS-Torture Burundi has been informed that the photographer Edwin Dwima was taken to the SNR headquarters in the Rohero zone, near the Regina Mundi cathedral, and that he was finally released late at night, at around 10 p.m.

It deplores the blatant violation of the rules of the code of criminal procedure in Burundi, particularly by the police and the SNR, given that in this case there is no prohibition on taking photographs in a public place.

¹ Union for National Progress.



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