



# SOS – Torture/Burundi

Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi

## **REPORT N°463 OF SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 27, 2024**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 19 to 26 October 2024, focusing on cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least four (4) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura and Ngozi, three of whom were killed by bullets fired by an agent of the Burundi National Police (PNB). Another person was seriously injured under similar circumstances.

The report also notes the case of one (1) person arbitrarily detained in Rumonge province and that of two (2) people who were kidnapped by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Bujumbura town and in Makamba province.

### **1. Violations of the right to life and physical integrity**

- On the morning of Monday 21 October 2024, the lifeless body of Pascal Nshimirimana, an employee of BRARUDI (Burundi Breweries and Lemonades), was discovered in the kitchen of his house at transversal 15, 13<sup>th</sup> avenue n° 15 in the Maramvya zone, in the commune of Mutimbuzi of the Bujumbura province (western Burundi), after he had been missing for three days.

According to family sources, Pascal Nshimirimana had been missing since the night of Thursday 17 October 2024 after returning home in his vehicle at around 10 p.m., after sharing a glass of beer in a bar called "Chez Blaise" owned by his brother-in-law in the same zone of Maramvya.

The next morning, a BRARUDI agent tried to telephone Pascal Nshimirimana (see his photo below) to warn him that a BRARUDI bus was coming to pick him up, but his phone was switched off. Concerned neighbors who went to the home of the deceased found that the gate was open with his vehicle inside, while his domestic

worker was absent. The worker only returned until around 2 p.m, claiming that he had gone to Bujumbura to visit a friend.



SOS-Torture Burundi learned that Pascal Nshilirimana was experiencing marital conflict and lived alone with his domestic worker after his wife left the marital home with all their children.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough and comprehensive investigation to identify the perpetrators of this murder and bring them to justice.

-In the early hours of Saturday, October 26, 2024, around 3:30 a.m., a PNB officer known as Déo Ndayisenga shot dead three people and seriously injured another in the bar "Umuco 2," located at the main town of Ngozi commune and province (northern Burundi).

According to witnesses of the gruesome scene, Déo Ndayisenga, in a drunken state, shot and killed the cashier of the bar, Ménédore Nduwayo (nicknamed Mémé) with a bullet to the head, as well as the waitress Chantal and a client known as Chauffeur or Gasongo. In his diabolical spree, Déo Ndayisenga also seriously injured another woman named Alice in the shoulder. The bodies of the three victims were taken to the morgue of the Ngozi provincial hospital, while the injured girl is receiving treatment at the same medical facility.

Sources indicated that the criminal fled after committing this heinous crime and is now being actively sought by the police. SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the misuse of firearms by some PNB officers and urges police authorities to enhance control and training of their officers on proper conduct. They call for the active search for the perpetrator to bring him to justice and punish him according to the law.

### 2. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrest and detention

-On the morning of Thursday, October 24, 2024, a woman named Aline Niyonkuru (see her photo below) was arbitrarily arrested at her home in Kigwati I neighborhood, the main town of Makamba commune and province (southern Burundi), with her 5-month-old baby. The police officers arrested her to replace her husband, who they claimed had recently escaped. Her husband had been arrested on October 24, 2024, for an unpaid debt related to the palm oil trade.



As Aline Niyonkuru was preparing food to bring to her husband, she was surprised to see the same officers return, who immediately arrested her in her husband's place.

SOS-Torture Burundi demands the immediate release of Aline Niyonkuru, who is being arbitrarily detained with her child, and reminds that penal responsibility is personal.

### 2. Cases of kidnapping or forced disappearance

-On the afternoon of Tuesday, October 22, 2024, Colonel Léonidas Hatungimana, also known as Muporo, detained at the Bujumbura central prison (western Burundi), commonly known as Mpimba Prison, was removed from the prison by SNR agents and taken to an undisclosed location.

It should be recalled that Colonel Léonidas Hatungimana was arrested at his office at the General Staff of the National Defense Force of Burundi (FDNB) in September 2015 on charges of endangering state security. He was transferred to Gitega central prison after four months of torture in SNR custody before being moved to Mpimba prison.

SOS-Torture Burundi condemns this blatant violation of detainees' rights and fears that he may be subjected to new acts of torture by the SNR.

-On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 23, 2024, around 3:30 p.m., Fleury Niyonkomezi, a 37-year-old CNL party activist, was abducted by SNR agents in the Birimba neighborhood, the main town of Rumonge province (southwestern Burundi). According to witnesses, Fleury Niyonkomezi (see his photo below), also an evangelist in the Church for the Unity of the Holy Spirit in Burundi (EUSEBU), was registering at the Birimba voter registration center when SNR agents, dressed in police uniforms and traveling in a white Toyota Hilux double-cabin pickup truck with tinted windows and concealed plates, arrested him and took him to an unknown location.



Family members, originally from Buyenzi hill, Muhuta commune in Rumonge province and residing in the Birimba neighborhood, searched all official police detention centers for him without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the increase in kidnappings carried out by SNR agents and calls on President Evariste Ndayishimiye to ensure a peaceful political climate for the 2025 elections and to put an end to the kidnappings orchestrated by security agents.



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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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.