



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 464 PUBLISHED ON 3 NOVEMBER 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 26 October to 2 November 2024 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least one (1) person was murdered in the province of Gitega.

The report also deplores the case of three (3) people who were seriously injured in the provinces of Bubanza and Kirundo and the case of a person who was arbitrarily arrested in the province of Muyinga.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the morning of Monday 28 October 2024, a man known as Fabien Ntirandekura, from the Murenda hill in the commune of Bukirasazi of the Gitega province, succumbed to his injuries at Kibuye hospital in the same commune, where he had been evacuated by passers-by the night before, after being attacked by unidentified individuals as he returned home from a wedding party. According to these passers-by, the face of Fabien Ntirandekura, who had recently been released from Gitega prison, was disfigured.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for an investigation to be opened to identify the perpetrators of Fabien Ntirandekura's murder so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- ¹²According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on Wednesday 23 October 2024, Imbonerakure from the Nyagatovu hill in the Vumbi commune of the Kirundo province violently beat and seriously injured Léonard Habayimana, the local leader of the CNL party, accusing him of inciting local residents not to register for the 2025 elections.

According to eyewitnesses, four Imbonerakure, namely Éric Bigirimana (head of the Imbonerakure on Nyagatovu hill), Emmanuel Birame, Nduwayo alias Migagaro and a certain Buvunyungu, violently beat and seriously injured Léonard Habayimana (see photos of his injuries below) to the point of losing consciousness. He was bleeding from his nose and mouth.



The same sources said that some residents of Nyagatovu took Léonard Habayimana, in a critical condition, to the Gasura health centre in the commune of

¹ Members of the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy) party youth league.

² National Congress for Freedom.

Vumbi, and that he was transferred the same day to Kirundo hospital for appropriate treatment.

According to the victim's neighbours, Léonard Habayimana's assailants remain free.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for the perpetrators of this crime to be arrested so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Monday 28 October 2024, Imbonerakure led by the head of the CNDD-FDD women's league, known as Nzobonimpa, violently beat a CNL party activist, Évariste Kwigize, on Carubambo hill in the commune of Ntega, in Kirundo province.

According to eyewitnesses, these Imbonerakure apprehended Évariste Kwigize and took him to a place called "Bunker" (Bunker in French) located on the Carubambo hill in the Mugendo zone, where they severely beat him to punish him for refusing to join the CNDD-FDD party and to register to vote. Among the assailants identified by residents of the place where Évariste Kwigize was tortured were Pancrace and two other Imbonerakure called Madandi and Bebe.

According to the testimony of Évariste Kwigize's neighbours on the hill of Makombe, in the commune of Ntega, all the Imbonerakure who tortured him remain free.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a judicial enquiry to be opened to identify all those responsible for the acts of torture inflicted on Évariste Kwigize so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday 30 October 2024, soldiers from the Mudubugu camp on the Buringa hill in the commune of Gihanga in the province of Bubanza violently beat a local resident known as Thomas Nzeyimana, after finding him in the fields located on land in dispute between the population and the administration of the Mudubugu camp.

According to family members, Thomas Nzeyima was harvesting cassava. Soldiers then seized all the cassava already harvested and the victim's bicycle and took them to the camp for confiscation.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling on the administrative authority of Bubanza province to find a solution to the land dispute between the Mudubugu camp administration and the neighbouring population.

It also calls on the judicial authorities in Bubanza to carry out an investigation to identify the soldiers who tortured Thomas Nzeyimana, so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

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

- On the morning of Thursday 31 October 2024, at around 5 a.m., policemen from the Giteranyi communal police station in the province of Muyinga arbitrarily arrested Sylvestre Nduwimana, a teacher at the Giteranyi communal high school and member of the pro-Agathon Rwaso CNL party, and took him to an unknown destination.

According to members of his family, Sylvestre Nduwimana's home was surrounded by policemen before they arrested him without presenting him with an arrest warrant or informing him of the reason for his arrest.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplores the persistence of cases of arbitrary arrests committed against a backdrop of political intolerance and calls on the police authorities in Muyinga province to communicate the fate of Sylvestre Nduwimana and to release him without delay.



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.