



## 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. 466 PUBLISHED ON 17 NOVEMBER 2024**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 9 to 16 November 2024 and deals with cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, at least two (2) people were murdered in the provinces of Gitega and Kirundo and two (2) others were seriously injured in the provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke.

The report also mentions the cases of nine (9) people who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in the provinces of Gitega and Ruyigi, as well as one (1) person who was abducted by the police in the province of Cibitoke.

#### **1. Violations of the right to life**

- On the morning of Monday 11 November 2024, the lifeless body of Jean de la Paix Amri Uwizeye, alias Wtonze, was found in a road near his home on the hill and the Baziro zone, in the commune of Gitobe of the Kirundo province.

According to local residents, unidentified individuals broke into the home of Jean de la Paix Uwizeye, a native of the Rurende hill in the Murore zone of the Busoni commune, and strangled and tied him up before throwing his body into the road to cover up the tracks of a subsequent investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough and meticulous investigation to identify the perpetrators of the murder of Jean de la Paix Uwizeye and bring them to justice so that they can be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Tuesday 12 November 2024, the lifeless body of 57-year-old Gloriose Ruranditse was found in a gutter on the Muremera hill in the commune of Giheta, of the Gitega province.

According to the victim's neighbours, the woman's body was lying in a pool of blood, and the circumstances and perpetrators of her murder have not been determined.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for an investigation to determine the circumstances and identify the perpetrators of the crime so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

### 2. Violations of the right to physical integrity

- On the morning of Wednesday 13 November 2024, at 6.40 a.m., a soldier known as Barutwanayo seriously wounded Éric Nshimirimana in the thighs (see photo below) with bullets fired from his service Kalashnikov as the victim was cutting fodder for his cattle in a field near the Mudubugu military camp in the commune of Gihanga of the Bubanza province.



According to eyewitnesses, residents of the Mudubugu sub-hill evacuated Éric Nshimirimana to the Mudubugu health centre before being transferred to one of Bujumbura's hospitals for appropriate treatment, while the soldier, Barutwanayo, returned to the camp without concern.

The same sources said that the motive for this crime was linked to the unresolved land dispute that has pitted the military camp against the Mudubugu population since 1985.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for the arrest of the soldier Barutwanayo so that he can be tried and punished in accordance with the law, and is asking the government to settle this land dispute, which continues to plunge into mourning the families who farm the land within the disputed area.

- On the evening of Friday 15 November 2024, at around 7 p.m., an unidentified man severely injured a woman known as Léonie Nyandwi, aged 35, with a machete on the Kibande sub-hill of the Masango hill and zone, in the province of Bukinanyana of the Cibitoke province, as she was returning home from a market in the locality.

According to local residents, Léonie Nyandwi, who was seriously injured in the neck, was immediately evacuated to the nearest health facility for emergency treatment, while her assailant immediately fled the scene.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for an investigation to identify the perpetrator of intentional bodily harm and punish him in accordance with the law.

### 3. Violations of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- On the afternoon of Sunday 10 November 2024, the local police commissioner in the commune of Kinyinya of the Ruyigi province, Mpawenayo Djuma, arbitrarily arrested six activists from the CNL<sup>1</sup> party (see photo below), the wing of MP Agathon Rwasa, on Musumba hill, Jean Marie Ngendahayo (party leader in the commune of Kinyinya), André Ndereyimana (party leader on Musumba hill), Egide Ngomirakiza, Lazard Sinzotuma, Dieudonné Kwizea and Gracien Gwire, and took them on motorbikes to the police lock-up in the commune of Kinyinya.



<sup>1</sup> National Congress for Freedom.

According to eyewitnesses, the Imbonerakure who alerted the local police commissioner accused these six CNL party activists, without proof, of holding an illegal meeting.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the party activists were transferred the next day to the dungeon of the provincial police station in Ruyigi before appearing before the provincial prosecutor's office on Wednesday 13 November, where they have been held since that day on charges of undermining internal state security and holding an illegal meeting.

The organisation is calling for political tolerance and an end to the persecution of opposition party activists.

- Since 4 November 2024, Pamphile Ngendabanyikwa, Charles Nzobonimpa and Louis Congera, three brothers living on the hill of Mugitega in the commune of Bugenda of the Gitega province, have been arbitrarily detained at the provincial police station in Gitega.

According to family members, a judicial police officer forced the three men to sign a pre-established statement acknowledging that they had abandoned a case they had submitted to the Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals following an unjust judgement that had just been handed down by the Gitega High Court in connection with a land dispute.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure on deprivation of liberty to be respected and for the release of these three people who are being held illegally.

#### 4. Kidnapping or enforced disappearance

- On the afternoon of Saturday 9 November 2024, at around 3 p.m., three men in Burundi National Police (PNB) uniforms abducted Christophe Niyimporera alias Kibada, aged 42 and father of six, a teacher at Gasarabuye ECOFO (Basic School) located in the commune of Mabayi in the province of Cibitoke, as he was having a glass of beer in a bistro called "Kumwarangabo", and drove him to an unknown destination in their white Toyota Hilux double cab pick-up truck with tinted windows and no number plates.

According to eyewitnesses, the three police officers burst into the bistro and forced Christophe Niyimporera, who lives on the Mageyo hill in the Butahana zone of the same commune of Mabayi, into their vehicle, which immediately sped off.

SOS-Torture Burundi is asking the head of the police in Cibitoke province to reveal the fate of Christophe Niyimporera and where he is being held.

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.