

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 468 PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 1, 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 23 November to 1 December 2024 and documents cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

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

The report also mentions the case of one (1) leader of the CNL party¹ close to Agathon Rwasa, arrested and arbitrarily detained by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Bujumbura town hall.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, in the morning, the lifeless body of a man identified as **Audace Simbagoye** alias **Bahati**, 70 years old and from the commune and province of Bururi, was discovered in a stream. The latter was a watchman in an oil palm plantation located on the hill of Gashasha, in the locality of Karonda, Kigwena area, commune and province of Rumonge.

According to testimonies collected from the inhabitants of Karonda, unidentified individuals strangled **Audace Simbagoye** alias **Bahati** before throwing his body in the stream below the RN3 (National Road No. 3) linking Bujumbura to Makamba.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a thorough investigation to establish the exact circumstances of this assassination, identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

¹ National Congress for Freedom.

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

- On Tuesday, November 26, 2024, in the afternoon, at around 3:30 p.m., agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) arbitrarily arrested **Ir Cyrille Bizimana**, 44, at Melchior Ndadaye airport during the control of his travel documents. He was then taken, in what appears to be a kidnapping, to an unknown destination, after being stripped of his mobile phone and all his suitcases.

According to members of his family, **Ir Cyrille Bizimana**, one of the leaders of the **CNL party** close to Agathon Rwasa in the Kirimiro-Mugamba region, is originally from the hill of Biganda, commune and province of Muramvya, but lives in Bujumbura, in the Gikungu-Gihosha district. He had just returned from a one-year stay in Qatar.

SOS-Torture Burundi learned that he had been transferred to the dungeon of the SNR headquarters in Bujumbura and that he was released **on November 28, 2024**, after two days of arbitrary detention.

The organization urges the general administration of the **SNR** to respect the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure relating to deprivation of liberty. It also calls for an end to the practices of arbitrary arrests and detentions, which have become recurrent within this service under the supervision of the Presidency of the Republic.



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 initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations underway in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform about the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of December 11 and December 12, 2015 by police and soldiers under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected areas are said to be protest areas of President Nkurunziza's third term, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Bujumbura City Hall.