



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. 471 PUBLISHED ON 22 DECEMBER 2024

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 14 to 21 December 2024 and documents cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, seven (7) people were murdered in the provinces of Cibitoke and Gitega and in Bujumbura town hall.

The report also mentions the case of two (2) arbitrary arrests of CDP ("Council of Patriots") party activists in the province of Makamba.

1. Violations of the right to life

- According to information received by SOS-Torture Burundi, on Wednesday 11 December 2024, residents of the Kajeke hill in the commune and province of Bubanza discovered the lifeless bodies of a child and a man, whose names have not been identified.

According to eyewitnesses, the body of the child, apparently aged eight, had been emasculated, while that of the man, visibly well-off, was found in the ravine of the Kajeke river irrigation dam.

The same sources said that the local authority had ordered the burial of the two bodies on the same day.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough investigation to identify the circumstances of these murders and their perpetrators, so that they can be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Sunday 15 December 2024, the lifeless body of a National Intelligence Service (SNR) informant known as Elie Ndayishimiye (see photo below) was found in the Rohero zone, Mukaza commune, in the city of Bujumbura, not far from the place commonly known as "Jardin Public".



According to eyewitnesses, the body showed signs Elie Ndayishimiye had been murdered by strangulation.

According to the same sources, tyre tracks from a vehicle suggest that Elie Ndayishimiye was killed in another location and that his body was then dumped in

the Rohero zone. Elie Ndayishimiye was known for several blood crimes, including the 2004 murder of a Gisozi shopkeeper, Paul Buyanda, for which he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

- On morning of Sunday 15 December 2024, the lifeless body of an unidentified woman was found in the Mutakura district, Cibitoke zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura town.

According to eyewitnesses, the naked body of the victim was lying in a sewage ditch (see photo below). She was allegedly raped before being killed.



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

- On Sunday 15 December 2024, the lifeless body of a child known as Joué Irakoze was discovered in a house under construction on the Ruhanza hill, in the commune of Giheta, in Gitega province.

According to members of his family, Josué had disappeared the previous day when he went in search of firewood. The child's body was buried the same day on the orders of the local authority.

- On the morning of Thursday 19 December 2024, two lifeless bodies of unidentified men were found in the Mushasha and Rango districts respectively, in the commune and province of Gitega.

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators and circumstances of these crimes so that they can be tried and punished in accordance with the law.

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

- ¹On the morning of Saturday 14 December 2024, an Imbonerakure known as Ngabo arbitrarily arrested two CDP ('Council of Patriots') party activists, Fabien Nijimbere and Antoine Mbaririmbanyi, in the main town of the commune of Mabanda in the province of Makamba.

According to eyewitnesses, Fabien Nijimbere, the party's representative in the Gitara zone of the Mabanda commune, and Antoine Mbaririmbanyi, the party's deputy communal representative in the same commune, were arrested when they were in the process of collecting receipts and identity cards from members of the party in order to make photocopies for use in their candidature files for the 2025 elections. They were accused of collecting receipts and identity cards with the aim of preventing their owners from standing in the forthcoming elections.

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



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According to members of their political family, Fabien Nijimbere and Antoine Mbaririmbanyi were tried and sentenced in a flagrante delicto trial on Tuesday 17 December by the Makamba High Court to two years' imprisonment and a fine of eight hundred thousand Burundian francs (800,000 BuF).

SOS-Torture Burundi is calling for the release of the two CDP party activists, who were arbitrarily arrested while seeking the necessary documents to stand as candidates in their party's elections for deputies and local councillors.

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 town.