

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 474 PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 12, 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 4 to 11 January 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, five (5) people were murdered in the provinces of Bubanza, Cibitoke, Makamba, Mwaro and Ngozi while five (5) others were seriously injured by soldiers in the province of Cibitoke.

The report also mentions three (3) cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions in Mwaro province, as well as one (1) violation of civil and political rights in Bubanza province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Monday, January 6, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a woman named Pascasie was discovered on Ngoma hill, Gashikanwa commune, in Ngozi province.

According to the testimonies of her family members, Pascasie had spent Sunday evening in a bistro located in the locality of Ndaro, which she had left at around 8 p.m. His body had wounds on his ears that show that the victim was killed by stabbing.

The same sources said that Pascasie's body was buried on the same day on the order of the municipal administration, despite the protests of his family members who wanted him transferred to the morgue to allow a thorough investigation.

- On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, in the afternoon, at around 1 p.m., a 53-year-old woman, known as Béatrice Nibogora, was stabbed to death by as-yet-unidentified individuals on the hill of Gatabo, Kayogoro commune, in the province of Makamba.

According to the testimony of neighbors, Beatrice Nibogora was killed as she was returning from her field. She received three stab wounds to the neck and another to the head.

According to the same sources, four suspects were arrested as part of the investigation opened by the judicial police of the commune of Kayogoro. They are the victim's brother-in-law, named Methodius, his two wives and their servant. They are currently being held in police custody. Also, according to testimonies, Méthode threatened the victim, accusing him of having pulled beans in his field, and swore to "end his life".

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough and thorough investigation to identify the motives and perpetrators of this crime, so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the late afternoon, farmers coming from their fields discovered the lifeless body of a man of about 40 years old on the hill of Rusiga, commune of Rugombo, in the province of Cibitoke, one kilometer from the Rusizi River, separating Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). According to the testimony of these farmers, the victim was killed with a machete and his decapitated body was lying in a field of corn and beans. He was buried in haste and without investigation on the same day by Imbonerakure¹ on the order of the communal administrator of Rugombo, Gilbert Manirakiza.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an investigation to determine the circumstances, the motive and the perpetrators of the crime so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

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

- On Friday, January 10, 2025, in the afternoon, soldiers from a position in Nyamitanga on transversal 4, Buganda commune, in the province of Cibitoke, shot dead two fuel traffickers and seriously wounded five others. Several canisters were swept away by the waters of the Rusizi River.

According to an eyewitness, the victims were transporting large quantities of gasoline and diesel from the DRC.

According to a military source in the locality of the incident, the army and police were ordered to shoot at close range any trafficker bringing fraudulent goods from the DRC or transporting illicit goods to the DRC, in order to discourage this type of illegal trade.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the administration to revoke this illegal measure, which infringes on the right to life of citizens, and to favor more humane and effective approaches. Among these, the organization proposes other measures, including the seizure of goods and the imposition of severe fines on violators.

2. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- On Monday, January 6, 2024, police officers arbitrarily arrested Cassien Nteziryayo (58), Fiacre Horugavye (38) and Aristide Nishimwe (23) at their home on Cewe Hill in the Makamba area, in the commune and province of Mwaro. They then led to the jail in the Makamba area.

According to members of their family, these three people were caught the day before cutting grass called in Kirundi "*ishinge or inyovu*" (*Eragrostis Curvula*) in the property of a certain Zeno Nigarura, before trying to ask for forgiveness.

The same sources said that Zénon Nigarura's son, Alexis Nigarura, a resident of Bujumbura, went up on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 to bribe the police so that the three detainees could be transferred to the police station in Mwaro.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the immediate release of Cassien Nteziryayo, Fiacre Horugavye and Aristide Nishimwe as the act for which they are being held should not lead to incarceration; the grass *Eragrostis Curvula* grows naturally and abundantly on the hills of Burundi.

3. Violation of civil and political rights

- On Monday, January 6, 2025, at around 3 a.m., Dieudonné Nzigamasabo, head of the CNDD-FDD, accompanied by three Imbonerakure, arrested Julienne Nzobomimpa and Léonard Banzira, members of the hill committee of the FRODEBU party (Front for Democracy in Burundi) on the hill of Butaha, Muyebe area, Musigati commune, Bubanza province.

According to family members, Dieudonné Nzigamasabo drove Julienne Nzobonimpa and Léonard Banzira to the CNDD-FDD party headquarters and forced them to sign an act of renunciation of the FRODEBU party and membership of the CNDD-FDD, before being taken back to their home.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the political tolerance of the ruling party and the opening of civic space for citizens to fully exercise and enjoy their civil and political rights.

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.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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.

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