



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. 473 PUBLISHED ON 5 JANUARY 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 28 December 2024 to 4 January 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered, respectively in the province of Cibitoke and in the Bujumbura town hall.

The report also mentions the case of one (1) arbitrary arrest and detention in Bururi province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Thursday, January 2, 2025, at around 2 a.m., residents of the 3rd transversal road on the hill of Kansega, Ndava area, Buganga commune, in the province of Cibitoke, killed and decapitated with machetes and knives an officer of the Burundi National Police (PNB) known as Pascal Nduwimana while he was stealing loincloths from a household in this area. locality.

According to the testimony of local residents, this policeman used to spy on cross-border traders on a bridge under construction linking Burundi and the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) to then be able to identify the houses in which they store their loincloths. It was then that a man surprised him in a household before calling neighbors who immediately proceeded to lynch him.

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

- On Friday, January 3, 2025, in the morning, Bonaventure Karemera, an inmate at the central prison of Bujumbura, commonly known as "Mpimba Prison", died on the way during his evacuation to a health facility in the Bujumbura City Hall.

According to eyewitnesses present at Mpimba Prison, Bonaventure Karemera, 60 years old, suffered from chronic diseases, including high blood pressure, diabetes and gout, and had been ill for several days. He had repeatedly asked for permission to go for treatment outside the prison, but he had always been categorically refused by the Prosecutor General of the Republic at the Bujumbura City Hall Court of Appeal, Aristide Nsengiyumva.

According to members of his family living in the Nyakabiga area, in Bujumbura City Hall, Bonaventure Karemera had been arrested and incarcerated in August 2023 on an arrest warrant signed by Attorney General Aristide Nsengiyumva for a civil debt of about 13 million, half of which he had paid two months before his arrest. Since that day, 1 year and 5 months, Bonaventure Karemera has never been heard by the prosecutor's office or had his file sent to a competent court.

SOS-Torture Burundi demands justice for the family of Bonaventure Karemera so that the Attorney General of the Republic at the Court of Appeal of Bujumbura City Hall, Aristide Nsengiyumva, can be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law.

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

- On Monday, December 30, 2024, in the morning, at around 10 a.m., agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) aboard a double-cab van with tinted windows belonging to the head of this service in Bururi province, proceeded to arrest, in the

form of kidnapping, a man known as Jean Ndemeye, 56 years old. This incident occurred on the hill of Ruringanizo, commune of Rutovu, in the province of Bururi. The man was taken to an unknown destination.

According to members of his family, Jean Ndemeye, a native of Kajondi hill and a former teacher at the Kayaga primary school, also located in the commune of Rutovu, had left his home by motorcycle taxi to join a bus bound for the city of Bujumbura. He was intercepted on the way by SNR agents before arriving at the bus parking lot.

The same sources said that Jean Ndemeye had benefited from a presidential pardon decreed on October 30, 2024, which led to his release on December 13, 2024. Initially arrested on October 31, 2022, he had been incarcerated in Bururi prison on spurious charges of illegal possession of firearms. These accusations had been successively rejected by the various competent courts, including the Cassation Chamber of the Supreme Court.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that Jean Ndemeye, a former UPRONA party activist¹, is currently being held at the provincial police station in Bururi.

The organization calls for the immediate release of Jean Ndemeye as he was arbitrarily arrested and illegally detained.

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.

¹ Union for National Progress.



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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.

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