



## 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. 475 PUBLISHED ON 19 JANUARY 2025**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 January 2025 and documents human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered in Gitega and Ngozi provinces.

The report also highlights the case of two (2) members of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL) who were seriously injured by Imbonerakure in Cibitoke province.

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

- On Monday, January 13, 2025, in the morning, a young student named Désiré Nkezahimana, from Runini hill, Kananira area, Tangara commune, Ngozi province, succumbed to his injuries after being violently beaten and seriously stabbed in the chest by a group of four Imbonerakure led by a certain Elysée Kwizera.

According to testimonies from family members, the four Imbonerakure broke into Nkezahimana's home and forced him to follow them to a local bistro, after accusing him of stealing a mobile phone. On the way, one of the attackers stabbed the young man in the chest.

According to the same sources, despite the desperate efforts of his parents to help him, Désiré Nkezahimana succumbed to his injuries the next morning in a hospital in the locality.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that two suspects, including Elysée Kwizera, have been arrested by police as part of an investigation, while the other two are still at large.

The organization is calling for a thorough investigation to identify all perpetrators involved in the murder of Désiré Nkezahimana and bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, January 16, 2025, in the afternoon, around 2 p.m., police officers from the police station in Gitega fatally killed a motorcycle taxi driver named Désiré. He succumbed to his injuries as a result of beatings inflicted in a motorcycle taxi parking lot located in front of the central market of Gitega in the Shatanya I district.

According to eyewitnesses, a group of police officers attempted to seize a motorcycle, but were met with resistance from other motorcycle taxi drivers and those at the scene.

According to the same witnesses, Désiré was evacuated in critical condition to the "Ubuzima" hospital in the Nyamugari district, where he unfortunately died shortly after his arrival.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough and impartial investigation to identify those responsible for this act and bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

## 2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Saturday, January 11, 2025, during the night, four Imbonerakure<sup>1</sup> identified as David Dukundane, Gasongo, Paul Nahayo and Fatuma (alias "Maman Chance"), attacked and seriously injured two members of the opposition party CNL (National Congress for Freedom), David Nduwayo and Siméon Niyonkuru. The incident occurred on the sub-hill of Rubuye, hill of Mparambo I, commune of Rugombo, in the province of Cibitoke. The two men, one of whom was stabbed in the back and arms, were urgently evacuated to a health facility near the scene of the crime for intensive care.

According to testimonies, one of the two men was stabbed in the back, leaving the two victims in serious condition.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the youth league of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy).

According to the testimony of their family members, David Nduwayo and Siméon Niyonkuru were attacked, because of their political affiliation, as they were returning from a family party.

According to the same sources, two suspects, David Dukundane and Gasongo, were arrested and placed in custody at the jail of the communal police station in Rugombo, while the other two, Paul Nahayo and Fatuma, are actively sought.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial investigation to identify the circumstances of the attack and punish all perpetrators in accordance with the law.

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.