



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. 480 PUBLISHED ON 23 FEBRUARY 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 15 to 22 February 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Bubanza, Kayanza and Makamba.

The report also mentions the case of three (3) people who were kidnapped by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the provinces of Gitega and Kirundo.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Tuesday, 18 February 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a young man identified as Louis Ndizeye was found, after disappearing for several hours, in the capital of the commune of Nyanza-Lac, in the province of Makamba.

According to eyewitnesses, the body of Louis Ndizeye, from the Bukeye district in the capital of the commune of Nyanza-lac, had multiple injuries.

According to members of his family, there are serious suspicions about two young Imbonerakure¹, Augustin Nshimirimana and a certain Edmond, because of their contradictory statements when they announced the death of Louis Ndizeye to his father on Monday night. They initially said that Louis Ndizeye had been hit by a vehicle on the Rwaba River, near the capital of Nyanza-Lac, before changing their minds a few minutes later, claiming that the young man had been killed while trying to steal from a household.

¹ 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).

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate investigation to search for the two suspects in the assassination of Louis Ndizeye, who are believed to have fled after the commission of the crime, and to bring them to justice so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, 19 February 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of Georges Nshimirimana, 40 years old, was found on the hill of Mwendo, in the commune and province of Kayanza.

According to the testimony of passers-by who then alerted the administrative and police authorities, the body of Georges Nshimirimana was lying near a road. According to the same sources, the circumstances of his death remain unclear because no clues have been discovered at the scene of the crime.

Members of his family believe that Georges Nshimirimana fell, on his way back from a refreshment bar in Rwesero, into the hands of the thieves who killed him after robbing him of a large sum of money.

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

- On Friday, 21 February 2025, during the night, unidentified individuals shot and killed a pork butcher identified as Vénuste Nsavyimana on the Nyamabere hill in the Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province.

According to family members, the assailants, armed with pistols, first broke down the door of the house of Vénuste Nshimirimana, a father of 4, and then shot him at close range in the heart (see photo below).



The same sources say that these criminals left after stealing a sum of seven hundred thousand Burundian francs (700,000 FBU) from him.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of the assassination of Vénuste Nsavyimana and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Friday, 14 February 2025, in the morning, agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) kidnapped Joseph Bisharizo alias Seyoya (32 years old) and Fleury Kwizera (34 years old) on Ruhehe hill, Kigina zone, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province and led them to an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, Imbonerakure first arbitrarily arrested Joseph Bisharizo as he was walking on his home hill and loaded him into the vehicle of the provincial head of the SNR in Kirundo, Pépin Habimana. Meanwhile, other Imbonerakure who had gone to Fleury Kwizera's home brought him back in the same vehicle which immediately drove off in the direction of Kirundo province. Since that day, their family members have searched for them in various dungeons without success.

According to family members, the two men had fled Burundi in 2015 to Rwanda, to the Mahama refugee camp. They had repatriated since 2020 after the Burundian government's call for voluntary repatriation and have since been living harmoniously with other locals.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the General Administration of the SNR to reveal the fate of Joseph Bisharizo and Fleury Kwizera and to release them immediately.

- On Thursday, 20 February 2025, in the morning, around 10 a.m., SNR agents abducted Jean de Dieu Nduwamungu, 49, from the BRARUDI² branch in Gitega and took him to an unknown destination. Jean de Dieu Nduwamungu, a former non-commissioned officer with the rank of Warrant Officer, is originally from the hill of Nyatubuye, commune of Mugamba, Bururi province, but resides in the locality called "Ku Rutonde", in the district of Birohe, in the town of Gitega.

According to members of his family, SNR agents brought Jean de Dieu Nduwamungu back to his home around 8:30 p.m. for a search session before leaving with him without finding anything incriminating. Since the next day, members of his family have been looking for him in all the dungeons in the province of Gitega, without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the General Administration of the SNR to reveal the fate and place of detention of Jean de Dieu Nduwamungu.

² *Breweries and Lemonade Company*).



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.