



# 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. 478 PUBLISHED ON 9 FEBRUARY 2025**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 1 to 8 February 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, one (1) person was murdered in the province of Gitega.

The report also mentions the case of six (6) people, including five doctors, who were arbitrarily arrested in the provinces of Bubanza, Kayanza, Makamba, Mwaro, Ngozi and Rutana. In addition, the president of the Union of General Practitioners of Burundi (SYMEGEB) was kidnapped and taken to an unknown destination by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR).

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

- On Wednesday, February 5, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a young hairdresser, Cédric Iradukunda, 25, was found lying on the national road n°8 (RN8) in the district of Songa, commune and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, Iradukunda's body had injuries to his head and thighs. They believe that he would have been killed elsewhere, then his body transported to this place to simulate a road accident and thus distort a possible investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to establish the exact circumstances of Cédric Iradukunda's murder, identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice for punishment in accordance with the law.

### **2. Violations of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions**

- Information received by SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that on Friday, January 31, 2025, in the morning, agents of the Burundi National Police (PNB) arbitrarily arrested a man named Patrick Nsengiyumva at his home, located on the hill of Kabonga, commune of Nyanza-Lac, province of Makamba.

According to his relatives, Patrick Nsengiyumva was arrested for wearing a T-shirt stamped "Visit Rwanda", an inaction that does not exist in Burundian criminal legislation.

According to the same sources, Patrick Nsengiyumva was first taken to the jail of the communal police station in Nyanza-Lac after a brief interrogation, before being transferred to the jail of the provincial prosecutor's office in Makamba, where he is still detained.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for his immediate release, highlighting the arbitrary and illegal nature of his detention.

- Since January 27, 2025, the National Intelligence Service (SNR) has launched a real "witch hunt" against doctors grouped within the SYMEGEB (Union of General Practitioners of Burundi), as part of a government repression following their demands for an improvement in their salary conditions.

Since then, SNR agents have arbitrarily arrested, in the form of kidnappings, five influential doctors of this union. Thus, Dr. Nazaire Ndereyimana, doctor in charge of the Fota Health District in the province of Mwaro, was arbitrarily arrested on January 27, 2025 in Bujumbura town hall while on a duty mission. He was taken directly to the dungeon of the SNR headquarters.

Three days later, on January 30, 2025, Dr. Pierre Claver Ruragahiye was arrested at his post at the hospital of a congregation of the Sisters in Musongati commune of Rutana province.

On the same day, two other doctors, Dr. Achel Igiraneza and Dr. Désiré Congera, were arrested at their respective departments, at the hospitals of Gahombo (Kayanza province) and Mpanda (Bubanza province).

Finally, the next day, January 31, 2025, Dr. Polycarpe Ntakiyiruta was arrested at the Mivo hospital in the province of Ngozi.

SOS-Torture Burundi reminds the government of Burundi of its obligation to respect the international commitments made under the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), particularly with regard to freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

The organization calls for the immediate release of these arbitrarily detained doctors and urges the authorities to engage in social dialogue with health professionals in order to find a favourable solution to the problems that have plagued the sector for some time.

### **3. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance**

- Since Thursday, February 6, 2025, at around 4 p.m., Dr. Aimable Ndabereye, president of SYMEGEB, has been missing after being summoned by phone by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) who forced him to report to the headquarters of this service in Bujumbura.

According to family sources, since that day, Dr. Aimable Ndabereye has been detained in an unknown location and his mobile phone has been switched off.

SOS-Torture Burundi demands that the General Administration of the SNR reveal the fate of Dr. Aimable Ndabereye and immediately release him.

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.



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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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