



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. 482 PUBLISHED ON MARCH 9, 2025

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

During this period, two (2) people were murdered in the provinces of Muyinga and Rumonge.

The report also mentions the case of one (1) young man who was severely beaten and seriously injured by the commissioner of the Northern Region of Police in Ngozi province, as well as the cases of three (3) people who were arbitrarily arrested by police and National Intelligence Service (SNR) officers, respectively in the province of Ruyigi and the city of Bujumbura.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Sunday, February 2, 2025, on the night, around 9 p.m., unidentified individuals shot and killed a man named Berchimas Minani at the entrance to his home, located in the Swahili district, in the capital of the commune and province of Muyinga.

According to members of his family, Berchimas Minani was ambushed by armed individuals who were waiting for him at the entrance to his home. They immediately shot him several times in the head and chest, causing his death on the spot.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate investigation to identify the perpetrators of this murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, March 6, 2025, in the morning, a young man known as Dieudonné Bazombanza succumbed to his injuries at the hospital in Rumonge, after being

beaten to death by unidentified people on the night of Wednesday to Thursday, on the hill of Rukinga, in the commune and province of Rumonge.

According to residents of Rukinga hill, Dieudonné Bazombanza was violently beaten by individuals who accused him of being a thief and even amputated his left arm.

According to the same sources, Dieudonné Bazombanza, originally from the commune of Gishubi, in the province of Gitega, lived in the Birimba district and was known for his acts of banditry in households.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an investigation in order to identify the perpetrators of this murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Thursday, March 6, 2025, in the afternoon, the Commissioner of the Northern Region of the police, Brigadier General of Police Lambert Habonimana, violently tortured a 27-year-old motorcyclist, Septime Ndikuriyo, on the hill of Rusuguti, in the commune and province of Ngozi.

According to witnesses, Septime Ndikuriyo, from Cihonda hill, in Gashikanwa commune, also in Ngozi province, was riding a motorcycle when he passed the vehicle at the regional commissioner's stop on Rusuguti hill. The latter then intercepted him and began to beat him violently, accusing him of having overtaken his vehicle. He continued his beating until he caused a nasal hemorrhage in Septime Ndikuriyo, who eventually lost consciousness.

The same sources specify that Septime Ndikuriyo was evacuated to the regional hospital of Ngozi, where he was admitted to intensive care in a very critical condition, while Police Brigadier General Lambert Habonimana remains free and is not the subject of any concern.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial investigation to arrest the perpetrator and bring him to justice.

3. Violations of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- Information received by SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that, on the morning of Friday, February 28, 2025, the police and the administration of the Banyamulenge refugee camp of Bwagiriza, in the province of Ruyigi, arbitrarily arrested a refugee and mother of three, Nyamutarutwa Murorunkwere, under the unfounded pretext of her husband's absence from the camp.

According to witnesses, Nyamutarutwa Murorunkwere's arbitrary arrest was preceded by searches of five Banyamulenge refugee houses in wards 25 and 37 of Bwagiriza camp.

The same sources say that the police suspect that Nyamutarutwa Murorunkwere's husband returned to the DRC to join the M23 rebels, while his wife claims that he went to Bujumbura in search of a job in order to support his family.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the immediate release of Nyamutarutwa Murorunkwere and an end to the persecution inflicted on the Banyamulenge community living in Burundi.

- On Sunday, March 2, 2025, during the day, agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) arbitrarily arrested Manassé Nizigiyimana at his home, located in the Carama district, Kinama area, Ntakangwa commune, in the city of Bujumbura, and took him to the cell of the headquarters of this service. He joined his two cousins and brothers, police lieutenant Kévin Nishimwe and police second lieutenant Albert Ndayisaba, who had been arbitrarily arrested on February 13 and 24, 2025 respectively at their substantive positions.

According to family members, these three young men, from Budaketwa hill, Mabanda commune, in Makamba province, are accused of exchanging WhatsApp messages about the fighting taking place in the Democratic Republic of Congo

(DRC). They specify that they are victims of a machination orchestrated by SNR agents with a view to their arbitrary arrest, especially since Kévin Nishimwe's phone, where the said messages were found for the first time, was in charge at the time of his arrest and that it was brought to them by another person.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the release of these three young men, arbitrarily 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.

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.