

## **SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 485 PUBLISHED ON 30 MARCH 2025**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 22 to 29 March 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations that have occurred in Burundi.

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

The report also mentions the case of one (1) person who was seriously injured by Imbonerakure in Ngozi province and that of one (1) person who was arbitrarily arrested and detained in Mwaro province.

Finally, the report highlights two (2) cases of kidnappings carried out by agents of the National Intelligence Service in the provinces of Gitega and Muyinga.

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

-On Thursday, March 16, 2025, at around 8 p.m., a police officer named Adidja shot dead a woman known as Eugénie Mukawera at close range at her home in the Kinyota district, in the commune and province of Muyinga.

According to eyewitnesses, the two women had argued earlier on the way home after spending several hours together sharing a drink at a local bistro. The dispute was allegedly provoked by an extramarital relationship between the victim and the policewoman's partner.

According to the same sources, a few minutes later, Adidja went to Eugénie Mukawera's home and insisted that the door be opened to her. The victim's children ended up, not without hesitation, acceding to his request. As soon as Eugénie showed up, Adidja shot her at close range, killing her instantly.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the perpetrator of the crime immediately went to the police station in Muyinga, where she laid down her weapon and confessed to the facts.

The organization is calling for an impartial investigation so that the perpetrator of this crime can be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law.

-On Saturday, March 29, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of an unidentified man, aged about thirty years, was discovered at transversal 9, on the hill of Rusiga, commune of Rugombo, in the province of Cibitoke, less than 500 meters from the provincial office and near the Nyamagana River.

According to witnesses, the victim's body was decapitated, and his new motorcycle was found at the scene of the crime. The body was transferred to the morgue of the Cibitoke hospital.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a rigorous and impartial investigation in order to identify the perpetrators of this crime and bring them to justice.

## 2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- Information sent to SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that on Friday, March 21, 2025, at around 8 p.m., two Imbonerakure<sup>1</sup>, Emmanuel Ndabarushimana and a certain Suguru, nicknamed Washushe, violently beat and seriously injured a man known as Ndikumana, as he was returning home. The facts took place in the valley separating the hills of Nyabikenke and Buhigiranka, in the commune of Nyamurenza, province of Ngozi.

According to members of his family, these Imbonerakure almost slit his throat with a knife in order to steal a sum of fifty thousand Burundian francs (50,000 FBu) that they had seen on him. Fortunately, he was saved in extremis by residents of Nyabikenke hill, alerted by his cries of distress, while the two attackers fled.

The same sources indicate that the victim was evacuated to the Nyamurenza health center, where he is currently receiving medical care.

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

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an impartial investigation in order to arrest Emmanuel Ndabarushimana and Suguru and bring them to justice, so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

### **3. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrest and detention**

- On Monday, March 24, 2024, at nightfall, police officers from the Kayokwe communal police station, in Mwaro province, arbitrarily arrested Tharcisse Nshimirimana, a teacher and provincial youth representative of the pro-Agathon Rwasa CNL party in that province, before taking him directly to the Kayokwe communal cell.

According to family members, Tharcisse Nshimirimana was arrested without a warrant and no reason was given. They suspect a political motive, believing that this arrest was instigated by militants of the dissident wing of the CNL party, led by Nestor Girukwishaka.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the immediate release of Tharcisse Nshimirimana in order to end his arbitrary detention.

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

- On Sunday, March 23, 2025, at nightfall, around 7 p.m., three Imbonerakure, including Antoine Basabose and another nicknamed Kinyenyi, kidnapped a 33-year-old man, Schadrac Nkunzimana, on the hill of Mukoni, in the commune and province of Muyinga, before driving him in a TI type vehicle with tinted windows, registration number C0444A, to an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, the vehicle was driven by Kinyenyi, who is believed to be the regular driver of Shabani Nimubona, president of the Imbonerakure youth league in the new province of Buhumuza, an individual also known for his involvement in numerous crimes, including cases of assassinations and enforced disappearances.

- On Monday, March 24, 2025, in the morning, at around 11 a.m., agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), led by the provincial head of the service in Gitega, Venant Ndayishimiye, abducted Emmanuel Mfitye, 60, from his home in the Musinzira district, in the commune and province of Gitega, and took him to an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, Emmanuel Mfitye, a former activist of the Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (MSD) — suspended since 2017 — former provincial inspector of education and executive of the Ministry of Education in Gitega, now retired, was arrested just outside his home, as he was preparing to go about his personal business. He was immediately taken in a white pick-up vehicle with tinted windows, belonging to the provincial head of the SNR in Gitega, to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi urges the General Administration of the SNR to reveal the place of detention of Emmanuel Mfitye and to communicate the reasons for his abduction.

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.