



## 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. 486 PUBLISHED ON APRIL 6, 2025**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 29 March to 5 April 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations committed in Burundi.

During this period, one (1) person was arbitrarily arrested and detained in Bujumbura City Hall.

The report also mentions three (3) cases of kidnappings perpetrated by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), which occurred in the provinces of Bujumbura and in the Bujumbura town hall.

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

- On Sunday, March 27, 2025, agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) arbitrarily arrested the Secretary General of the Burundi Football Federation (FFB), Jérémie Manirakiza, at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport. He was taken directly to the cell of this service located in the Rohero area in Bujumbura City Hall.

According to eyewitnesses, Jérémie Manirakiza was arrested on his way back from Morocco, where football matches had recently been held between Burundi and Côte d'Ivoire on the one hand, and Seychelles on the other. He joined three other members of his family, Kévin Nishimwe, Manassé Nizigiyimana and Albert Ndayisaba, who have been languishing for more than a month in these SNR dungeons, as part of an obscure investigation into the messages they allegedly exchanged about the ongoing fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between the government and the rebels of the Congo River Alliance and the M23<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See SOS-Torture Burundi Report No. 482 published on 9 March 2025.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH) to closely monitor the case of these four people who are arbitrarily detained, in violation of the rules of the Code of Criminal Procedure, particularly with regard to the legal time limits for police custody.

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

- Information received by SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that, on Thursday, April 27, 2025, at dawn, around 4 a.m., five unidentified men abducted a young girl named Jolie Hatungimana from her home located in the Mutakura neighborhood, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura City Hall, and drove her to an unknown destination in a black Toyota TI car.

According to family members, five men dressed in black broke into the house where she lived with her three younger brothers. They began beating them while questioning them about the whereabouts of their older brother, Trésor Hatungimana. Although the children explained that they had not heard from their brother since 2015, the kidnappers took the girl to an unknown destination.

According to the same sources, the family of Jolie Hatungimana, recently repatriated from the Mulongwe refugee camp in the DRC in January 2025, mobilized to search for her in the various dungeons and prisons in the city of Bujumbura, without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi urges the relevant police services to conduct thorough investigations to trace Jolie Hatungimana and prosecute the perpetrators of her abduction.

- On Monday, March 31, 2025, during the day, two men in uniform of the Burundi National Police (PNB), and the other in civilian clothes abducted Jean Bosco Tabaro, a young Congolese refugee residing in the Bwagiriza camp (Ruyigi province). The incident took place in the Kamenge area, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura City Hall. The victim was forcibly loaded into a pickup-type vehicle, heading for an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, the two men summoned Jean Bosco Tabaro (see his photo below) to get into their vehicle. Since then, his mobile phone has remained unreachable, and his family has not heard from him.



SOS-Torture Burundi expresses its deep concern about this enforced disappearance involving individuals with apparent links to the security forces. The organization urges the relevant authorities, including the Burundi National Police and the Ministry of the Interior, to:

- Open an urgent, independent and impartial investigation to shed light on the circumstances of this abduction;
- Identify and prosecute alleged perpetrators in accordance with the law;
- Inform the victim's family about his fate and place of detention;
- ensure respect for the rights of refugees, in accordance with Burundi's international commitments.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the authorities in particular to do everything possible to find this father, who worked in Bujumbura in order to provide for his relatives who remained in the refugee camp.

- On Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at around 7 a.m., agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), led by a certain Athia Nduwimana, abducted Mr. Fidèle Nkurembone, a 46-year-old father of seven, near his home located on Maramvya hill, in the locality called "Kwisamariro", commune of Mutimbuzi, province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, Fidèle Nkurembone, also an activist of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party, had just left his home to go to his usual activity as a trader at the Kwisamariro market, when he was intercepted by SNR agents. The latter were accompanied by a civilian accomplice in charge of pointing out the victim. The victim was forced to board a white double-cab type vehicle, before being driven to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the SNR administration to disclose without delay the fate of Mr. Fidèle Nkurembone as well as the place where he is being held, in accordance with the principles of transparency, respect for fundamental rights and procedural guarantees provided for by Burundian law.



## 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.