



## 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. 487 PUBLISHED ON APRIL 13, 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 5 to 12 April 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations committed in Burundi.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered, in the province of Cibitoke and in Bujumbura town hall.

The report also notes the case of two (2) leaders of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL), loyal to Agathon Rwasa, who were arbitrarily arrested in the form of kidnapping by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Bujumbura town hall.

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

- On Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at nightfall, a police officer shot dead a motorcycle taxi driver, nicknamed Ruswende, at close range, near the roundabout commonly known as "Iwabo w'abantu", located in the Kamenge area, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura town hall.

According to eyewitnesses, the crime was motivated by the victim's refusal to give in to a ransom attempt. Ruswende was shot three times in the head while helping a Scania truck driver transfer fuel from a rear tank to the front tank of the vehicle, an operation for which the driver had obtained administrative authorization.

The same sources indicate that the inhabitants who witnessed this horrible scene almost lynched the policeman with stones, had it not been for the quick intervention of the agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) who took him to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the immediate opening of judicial proceedings so that the perpetrator of this crime is prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, April 10, 2025, at around 3 p.m., two lifeless bodies of unidentified men in Burundian army military uniforms were discovered on transversal 11, Rusiga hill, commune of Rugombo, near the capital of the province of Cibitoke.

According to local sources, these two bodies in an advanced state of decomposition and packed in a tent are those of the young Imbonerakure victims of extrajudicial execution after deserting the fighting against rebels of the Alliance Fleuve Congo-Mouvement du 23 Mars (AFC/M23).

The same sources report that the two bodies were buried on the same day at the Cibitoke cemetery, without any investigation having been carried out to identify the victims, the perpetrators and the circumstances of this double homicide.

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

- On Monday, April 7, 2025, at around 2:45 p.m., Édouard Nzambimana, leader of the CNL party, a wing loyal to Agathon Rwasa, was arbitrarily arrested, in the form of kidnapping, by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Mukaza commune. He was driven to an unknown destination in a white double-cab Toyota Hilux van, tinted windows, registration E0462A.

According to eyewitnesses, Édouard Nzambimana, a 41-year-old shopkeeper and father of six, was violently beaten before being arrested without a warrant, at his workplace at the Iriho Gallery, in the heart of Bujumbura, near the Regina Mundi Cathedral. He is also a member of the Mukaza Communal Council and a native of Kirundo commune and province. His home is located in the Masama III district, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, in Bujumbura City Hall.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that Mr. Nzambimana was transferred on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, to the central prison of Mpimba. However, the offence against him has not yet been communicated.

- On Monday, April 7, 2025, at around 2:30 p.m., Pontien Ndayikeje, one of the leaders of the CNL party, a wing loyal to Agathon Rwasa, was arbitrarily arrested, in the form of kidnapping, by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). The facts took place at his home, located at 17th Avenue, number 30, in the Buyenzi zone, Mukaza commune, in Bujumbura City Hall. He was taken to an unknown destination in a white double-cab Toyota Hilux van with tinted windows.



According to eyewitnesses, Ndayikeje, a 38-year-old father of three from Rutana province, was in his shop adjoining his home when two vehicles sped in: a pick-up truck of the Burundi National Police (PNB) and another belonging to the SNR. When he came out to see what was happening, SNR agents rushed at him and violently took him away in their vehicle, without presenting him with an arrest warrant or giving their identity.

According to information gathered by SOS-Torture Burundi, Mr. Ndayikeje was later transferred to the central prison of Mpimba. However, as in the case of Édouard Nzambimana, the offence against him has still not been communicated.

These two simultaneous arrests are part of a series of persecutions against CNL activists loyal to Agathon Rwaswa, which have resulted in kidnappings sometimes followed by enforced disappearance.

These two arrests, which occurred on the same day, appear to be part of a series of targeted persecutions against CNL members loyal to Agathon Rwaswa, characterized by arbitrary abductions, sometimes followed by enforced disappearances.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the authorities to put an end to these acts of intimidation, which constitute serious human rights violations, and to ensure strict compliance with the legal guarantees provided for in the Code of Criminal Procedure, in the event of serious evidence of guilt against any suspect.

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.



## SOS - Torture/Burundi

*Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi*

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.

SOS-TORTURE