

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 368 PUBLISHED ON 31 DECEMBER 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 24 to 31 December 2022 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least Six (6) people were murdered during this period in different localities in the country.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On 25 December 2022, the lifeless body of a woman known as Spès Siniremera, aged about 40, was found hanged in a stable on the Mungwa hill of the Gitaba zone, in the commune and province of Rutana (south-east Burundi).

According to witnesses to the gruesome discovery, the woman was murdered in another place and her body was brought to this stable to simulate suicide.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a judicial enquiry to identify the perpetrators of the crime and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the night of Wednesday 28 December 2022 at around 7 p.m., a young man known as Samson Nzambimana, aged 23, was killed with clubs by unidentified individuals on the Mureha hill of the Gasura zone, in Mbuye commune of Muramvya province (central Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim succumbed to his injuries at the Gasura health centre where he had been evacuated.

The same sources said that two other youths, Aaron Ndayirukiye and Emmanuel Ntahomvukiye, who had spent the evening together with the victim, were arrested

on the morning of Thursday 29 December and detained at the police cell in Gasura for investigation.

- On the morning of Friday 30 December 2022, at around 7 a.m., a soldier shot dead a young student, Lahay Roy Niyera, on the 4th transverse of Nyamitanga hill, in the Buganda commune of the Cibitoke province (north-western Burundi).

According to witnesses, the young man was trying to remove mud from a section of an impassable road to ease traffic and mistakenly threw mud at the soldier, who reacted by shooting him.

The same sources state that Schadrack Irakoze was sentenced the next day, in a flagrante delicto trial, to life imprisonment for premeditated murder by the Gitega High Court.

- In the afternoon of Friday 30 December 2022 at around 3 p.m., three decomposing lifeless bodies of unidentified young women in their thirties were discovered on the 3rd transversal hill of Mparambo II in the commune of Rugombo of Cibitoke province (north-west of Burundi).

According to shepherds who witnessed the grim discovery, the three bodies were found naked some 400 metres from the Rusizi River on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo and were hastily buried the same day on the orders of the administrator of the Rugombo commune, Gilbert Manirakiza.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations taking place in Burundi through monitoring reports 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 on the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of 11 December and 12 December 2015 by police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected areas are said to be contesting the third term of President Nkurunziza, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the centre of Bujumbura city.

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