

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 373 PUBLISHED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2023

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 28 January to 4 February 2023 regarding cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during this period in Cibitoke province.

The report also deploras the case of one (1) 4-year-old girl who was raped in Bubanza province.

1. Violations of the right to life

- During this week, three lifeless bodies of unidentified people were discovered in Rugombo commune of Cibitoke province of (north-western Burundi).

According to local sources, the first two bodies were found respectively on 1st and 2 February 2023 in a maize field on the hills of Rukana and Mparambo in the same commune of Rugombo while the 3rd body of a young man was discovered on 3 February on the 4th transversal of the Kagazi hill in the same commune

The same sources specify that all the bodies were buried immediately at the place of their macabre discovery without deigning to open an investigation to identify the victims and the perpetrators of these heinous crimes.

SOS-Torture Burundi deploras the eagerness with which the administrative authorities in the province of Cibitoke give authorisations to bury the bodies of people abandoned and found in the wild, which poorly conceals their desire to cover up and maintain the impunity of the perpetrators of these targeted killings, who are most often identified among the militants of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy).

2. Cases of gender-based violence (rape)

- A report received by SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that a 4-year-old girl, N.N., was raped on 18 January 2023 by a man known as Alexis Ntahomvukiye, who was living with the girl's mother on the hill of Kanabubu, in the capital of the province of Bubanza (north-west Burundi).

According to local sources, the victim was taken to the Seruka centre in the city of Bujumbura for medical treatment, while the alleged perpetrator left immediately after the discovery of his crime and is still on the run despite the existence of a warrant issued by the Bubanza prosecutor's office.

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.

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.