



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. 476 PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 26, 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 18 to 25 January 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations that have occurred in Burundi.

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

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Sunday, January 19, 2025, in the morning, around 7 a.m., the lifeless body of the 38-year-old Police Warrant Officer Major Jean Claude Ndayizeye, from the commune of Gishubi, in the province of Gitega, was found in a gutter in district 7 of the Buyenzi zone in the commune of Mukaza, in the town hall of Bujumbura, near the School of Sanitation Technician and Laboratory (ETAL).

According to testimonies from street children who sleep near the ETAL, a double-cab van with tinted windows threw the body of Jean Claude Ndayizeye there the day before, during the night (see photos below). People who saw the body of the officer, who belonged to the Special Police for Driving and Road Safety (PSR&SR), believe that he was strangled by unidentified individuals, as no trace of violence was found on his body. He had last been seen in the evening before his death, in a bistro in the Bwiza area.



SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial and thorough investigation to identify the circumstances and perpetrators of the murder of Jean Claude Ndayizeye so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Monday, January 20, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of an unidentified alleged thief was discovered on Batye hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province.

According to the testimonies of the inhabitants of the locality where the body was found, this alleged thief was lynched on the night of Sunday, January 19 by the population of Batye when he tried to break into a home to steal a bicycle.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an investigation to identify the perpetrators of this crime and bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

- On Friday, January 24, 2025, in the night, around 11 p.m., hooded men hacked Berchmans Sinzobakwira, a 64-year-old father of 10 children, with machetes on the Nyarusebeyi sub-hill, Muhungu hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province.

According to the testimonies of his family members, the assailants, armed with machetes, broke into Berchmans Sinzobakwira's home and beheaded him. This murder is said to be linked to accusations of witchcraft that had been spread against him, accompanied by threats received a few days earlier.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that four suspects — Nicodème Nzoyisaba, Sylvère Nzohabonimana, Isaac Ngendakumana and Patrice Sibomana — have been arrested by police as part of the investigation, due to traces of blood found on their clothes during their arrest.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations underway in Burundi through



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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.