

## **SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 479 PUBLISHED ON 16 FEBRUARY 2025**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 8 to 15 February 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Cibitoke, Bubanza and Gitega.

The report also mentions the case of one (1) Sister of the Congregation "Order of Consecrated Virgins" who was kidnapped more than two weeks ago in the province of Rutana.

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

- On Saturday, February 8, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a man in a state of decomposition, identified as Tharcisse Ndayirukiye, 52 years old, was discovered in the Nyambeho valley, which separates the communes of Gitega and Giheta, in the province of Gitega.

According to family members, Tharcisse Ndayirukiye, from Kiremera hill in Giheta commune, had been missing since February 5 after sharing a drink with other residents in a local bistro.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of this murder and bring them to justice so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

- On Monday, February 10, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of David Nitunga was found at the market in the commune of Gihanga, in the province of Bubanza.

According to neighbors, David Nitunga had spent Sunday evening in a bistro with a friend. On the way back, they were ambushed by Imbonerakure on patrol. The latter

managed to capture David Nitunga and immediately strangled him, while his friend, as a last resort, managed to escape.

According to eyewitnesses, there were no apparent injuries to the victim's body.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial investigation to identify the perpetrators of David Nitunga's murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On the night of Monday, February 10, 2025, Imbonerakure murdered a man known as Salvator Ngendakumana, in his forties, on Gasenyi hill, in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province.

According to neighbors, the Imbonerakure found Salvator Ngendakumana at his concubine's home and knocked him out with a hammer before decapitating him with a knife.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an impartial investigation in order to identify all the perpetrators of this crime and punish them in accordance with the law.

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

- Information sent to SOS-Torture Burundi reveals that Sister Sylvane Nduwayo, of the Congregation "Order of Consecrated Virgins", has been missing for more than two weeks after being kidnapped on the night of Wednesday, January 29, 2025 from her home by individuals not yet identified, on the native hill of Gatakazi, in the commune of Musongati, province of Rutana.

According to members of her family, Sister Sylvane Nduwayo, 50, was arbitrarily arrested for the first time on January 28, 2025 at her home by Imbonerakure, who had taken her before a Judicial Police Officer (OPJ) named Gilbert. This arrest was linked to a commercial dispute with a local trader, concerning trees that his family had sold him, but for which he refused to pay the price. On that day, Sister Sylvane

Nduwayo was arbitrarily detained for a few hours in the Musongati police cell, before being released the same day thanks to the intervention of the Rutana prosecutor.

The same sources specify that since the morning of January 30, 2025, Sister Sylvane Nduwayo has been missing and that her phone has remained switched off since that date.

SOS-Torture Burundi urges the police authorities in the province of Rutana to reveal the fate of Sister Sylvane Nduwayo and to immediately release her.

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.