

Homosexuality in Burundi and Homosexuals Rights

Authors : Ciza Didier

Abstract : By definition, homosexuality designates the sexual or amorous attraction towards a person of the same sex or of the same gender as one's own. The Burundi country has superficially 27834km² with 13 millions of population. There are groups of certain people assuming that they are homosexual and that they want to claim their rights. Burundian homosexuals often organise seminars in the premises of the National Health Security Agency (NHSA) located at Kigobe quarter, in Bujumbura, this is the place where they meet to try to exchange and create their association for claim their rights. There are 2 categories of homosexuals: - gays: homosexuality between men (male sex) - lesbians: homosexuality between women (female sex) In the gay couple, there is one who behaves like a woman and often wears feminine styles while the other always remains like a man and always wears masculine styles. In the lesbian couple, there is one who behaves like a man and wears men's styles while the other remains as she is like a woman. In general, Burundian society is against homosexuality. Our society sees them as pariahs carrying a curse. According to Burundian culture and customs, homosexuality is satanic, therefore it is a great sin. In April 2011, Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza signed a law criminalizing homosexual acts and providing for a sentence of three months to two years in prison, as well as a fine of BIF 50,000 to BIF 100,000 for any homosexual behavior. The investigation recently done shows that out of 300 people questioned, 299 were against homosexuality saying that it is against Burundian culture and 1 was for homosexuality. All Burundians are not against homosexuality. Their country must therefore take into consideration the small party of people who are for homosexuality. Homosexuals, too, need to live like others.

Keywords : homosexuality, lesbian, gay, law

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