

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 481 PUBLISHED ON 2 MARCH 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 22 February to 1 March 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations that have occurred in Burundi.

During this period, four (4) people were murdered in the province of Cibitoke.

The report also mentions the case of one (1) prisoner who died in Gitega prison as a result of the violation of his right to health by the Director of this prison who refused to intervene for his urgent transfer to an appropriate health center.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Sunday, February 23, 2025, in the afternoon, the lifeless body of an unidentified young man, in his thirties, was discovered in the Nyamagana River, on the hill of Rusiga, commune of Rugombo, in the province of Cibitoke.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body had multiple head injuries. They believe that the young man was killed with clubs before being thrown into the Nyamagana River.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate investigation to identify the perpetrators of this murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, in the morning, farmers discovered three lifeless bodies of unidentified young men, wearing masks, on transversal 7, at the foot of Kaburantwa hill, in the commune of Buganda, province of Cibitoke, near the Rusizi River, which separates Burundi from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to eyewitnesses, the three bodies were in an advanced state of decomposition. The same sources said that the Buganda communal administrator

and the communal commissioner had ordered the Imbonerakure to bury the three young men within 100 meters of the Rusizi River.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial investigation to identify the perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Violation of the right to health of persons deprived of their liberty

- On Sunday, February 23, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of Innocent Ndiwokubwayo, an inmate at Gitega Central Prison, was found in his bedroom, after his health had deteriorated the previous evening, around 10 p.m. According to sources at the Gitega Central Prison, his fellow inmates immediately alerted the director of this prison, Police Colonel Salomon Nduwayezu, so that he could intervene quickly to evacuate the patient to the Gitega Regional Hospital. However, according to the same sources, this official refused to respond to their distress call, only telling them that the case would be analyzed the next morning. SOS-Torture recalls that the right to health of persons deprived of liberty is one of the fundamental rights of detainees. No grounds or circumstances should be invoked to violate or restrict this fundamental right.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi

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.