

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 496 PUBLISHED ON JUNE 15, 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 7 to 14 June 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, five (5) people were murdered in the provinces of Cibitoke, Gitega and Rumonge.

The report also mentions four (4) people seriously injured by Imbonerakure, mainly in the context of cases of political intolerance following the recent election, as well as the arbitrary arrest of three (3) association leaders at the Melchior Ndadaye International Airport in Bujumbura.

1. Violation of the right to life

- According to information gathered by SOS-Torture Burundi, on Friday, June 6, 2025, during the day, the lifeless body of an unidentified man, tied up with a rope, was discovered in the Karera 2 neighborhood, in the city of Gitega.

According to several corroborating testimonies, the victim was killed with clubs by a group of angry people, who suspected her of belonging to a network of burglars who had recently robbed a house in the neighborhood. The body of the victim was transferred to the morgue of the regional hospital of Gitega. At the time of writing this report, no person involved in this act of mob justice has been identified or arrested.

SOS-Torture Burundi expresses its deep concern about the persistence of acts of expeditious justice in Burundi and urges the competent authorities to conduct an impartial, thorough and independent investigation in order to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of this crime, in accordance with national standards and international obligations to protect human rights.

- On Sunday, June 8, 2025, at around 5:40 p.m., the lifeless body of Jean Maniratunga, 36, was found hanging from a rope inside his house, located on Masango hill, Mutaho commune, in the province of Gitega.

According to testimonies collected from the neighborhood, Jean Maniratunga, married and father of three children, was killed elsewhere, before his body was transported and staged in his home in order to simulate suicide. Mutaho police went to the scene to make initial findings, and the body was transferred to the communal hospital morgue for an autopsy.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial, thorough and independent investigation to identify, arrest and bring to justice the perpetrators of this crime.

- On the morning of Monday, June 9, 2025, the lifeless body of a young fisherman known as Asmani, 27, was found stabbed in the Swahili neighborhood of the city of Rumonge.

According to local sources, Asmani, married with two children, was killed in his neighborhood with a knife by unidentified individuals. The circumstances and motive for the murder remain unknown for the moment.

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

- On Saturday, June 14, 2025, in the morning, residents of transversal 4, on Nyamitanga hill, Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, discovered the lifeless bodies of two unidentified men, about five hundred meters from the Rusizi River, which marks the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to eyewitnesses, the two bodies showed obvious signs of violence and lay in a pool of fresh blood. The communal administrator of Buganda, Pamphile Hakizimana, ordered the transfer of the remains to the morgue pending their burial.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial, thorough and independent investigation to identify the perpetrators of this double murder and bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at around 8 p.m., Imbonerakure¹ led by the head of the hill of Magara I, Sadiki, violently attacked Ildephonse Mpawenimana, a teacher at the Magara Communal High School, in the commune of Bugarama, Rumonge province. The victim, nicknamed Tunga-Nyamitwe and a member of the Imbonerakure, was intercepted as he was returning home near the Saint Georges Hospital in Magara.

The attackers tied him up, violently beat him and snatched his mobile phone. During the attack, they told him that the order to "correct" him came "from above".

Ildephonse Mpawenimana was found tied up by passers-by, who transported him to a local health facility.

According to several sources, this attack was ordered by Anne Marie Nicizanye, director of the Magara communal high school and CNDD-FDD communal secretary of the Muhuta commune, who is also a parliamentary candidate.

¹ Members of the youth league affiliated to the ruling CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy) party.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial and thorough investigation to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of these acts of torture.

- On Saturday, June 7, 2025, during the day, T rence Ndiwokubwayo, an activist of the "Burundi Bwa Bose" coalition, was violently attacked by the CNDD-FDD leader of Butamenwa Hill, Isaac Ndiwokubwayo, accompanied by four Imbonerakure: Sylvestre, Guillaume, Amani and Jean-Marie alias Kaberege.

The attack took place in a bistro on Butamenwa hill, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province. The attackers accused him of not having voted for the CNDD-FDD in the last elections, before beating him violently and stealing thirty thousand Burundian francs.

Terence Ndiwokubwayo was taken to the Nyabikere health center for treatment. When he tried to file a complaint with the local police, they refused to register him and referred him to the Karusi prosecutor's office.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial investigation and the arrest of the perpetrators of this violence.

- On Sunday, June 8, 2025, at around 8 p.m., Vincent Mpfayokurera, a member of the Imbonerakure and seller of BRARUDI products, violently assaulted Jeannette Irakoze, also a BRARUDI beverage seller, on 14th Avenue of Kirekura Hill, Maramvya Zone, Mutimbuzi Commune, Bujumbura Province.

Angry after a customer went to Jeannette Irakoze's refreshment bar, he demanded that she close his establishment. Faced with the refusal of his clients, he returned with a hammer and hit Jeannette Irakoze on the head four times, plunging her into unconsciousness.

The victim was rushed to hospital. The attacker was briefly detained before being released the next day.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for his re-arrest and prosecution in accordance with the law.

- On Sunday, June 9, 2025, in the night, three Imbonerakure, Alphonse alias Gasepe, Egide nicknamed Binure and a certain Vyubi, led by the chief of the hill of Gitwe, Muhuta area, province of Rumonge, violently beat a man known as Bucumi, aged about 70, at his home located on the hill of Gitwe, who is in critical condition.

According to eyewitnesses, the Imbonerakure beat him as punishment for refusing to hand over his voter card to vote in his place days before elections were to be held. He had simply retorted that he did not want to be deprived of his right to vote.

The same sources said that Bucumi filed a complaint with a judicial police officer, but that no measures were taken to arrest the alleged perpetrators of the intentional bodily harm.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an end to the impunity surrounding crimes committed by young people of the Imbonerakure militia and for the arrest of the perpetrators of this crime committed against this septuagenarian.

3. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- On Friday, June 13, 2025, in the afternoon, around 2:20 p.m., the police arbitrarily arrested three leaders of associations of survivors of the 1993 massacres in Kibimba and 1997 in Buta: Florence Rutamucero, president of the Association of Survivors of the Kibimba massacre; André Bizoza, president of the Association Lumière du Monde (ALM-Buta); and Elvis Nshimirimana, a local expert with the same organization.

The arrest came as they were preparing to board at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport in Bujumbura to attend a regional peace meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

According to eyewitnesses, the three officials were part of a seven-person delegation attending the General Assembly of the Regional Civil Service for Peace (ZFD) Program, supported by the German Cooperation (GIZ). They were arrested by plainclothes officers who presented them with an arrest warrant without giving them time to read it or to know the reason.

The same sources indicate that the three arrested persons were transferred and placed in detention in the judicial police cell in Jabe, in the city of Bujumbura, where they are still being held.

SOS-Torture Burundi deplors the fact that this arrest comes at a time when some of the tragedies that have plunged Burundi into mourning continue to be persecuted by the authorities. In recent years, several Burundian associations have seen their commemoration activities banned or severely restricted, particularly those aimed at honoring the memory of the Tutsi victims of the 1990s, reflecting a growing hostility of the CNDD-FDD government towards independent memorial initiatives.

The organization calls for the immediate and unconditional release of these illegally detained human rights defenders.

In conclusion, the period covered by this report, from 7 to 14 June 2025, once again demonstrates the persistence of serious human rights violations in Burundi. The documented cases reveal an increase in killings, torture, targeted physical violence, arbitrary arrests and violations of fundamental freedoms, including against human rights defenders and community leaders.

The violence perpetrated by members of the Imbonerakure, often with impunity or the complicity of local authorities, illustrates the climate of political intolerance that continues to prevail in the country, particularly in the wake of recent elections. The arbitrary arrest of representatives of survivors' associations also demonstrates the increasing restrictions on independent memorial initiatives and the work of civil society.

SOS-Torture Burundi reiterates its call on the Burundian authorities to put an end to impunity, to open impartial and independent investigations into all documented violations and to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice in accordance with Burundi's national and international human rights obligations.



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.