

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 500 PUBLISHED ON 13 JULY 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 5 to 12 July 2025 and documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

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

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Sunday, July 6, 2025, in the afternoon, the body of a woman identified as Julienne Nahayo, 59, was discovered in her cassava field on Gabiro-Ruvyagira hill in the Rugombo area, Cibitoke province.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body had a deep wound to his head resulting from violent blows with a blunt object.

The same sources said that the body of Julienne Nahayo was transported to the morgue of the Cibitoke hospital, where a *post-mortem* examination confirmed that the death occurred as a result of a severe head trauma.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a rigorous investigation to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice, in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of an unidentified woman, aged about 55, was found at the bottom of a ravine, in a river located on the hill of Nyabisindu, commune and province of Cankuzo.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body was horribly mutilated and lying in a pool of blood.

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

- On Thursday, July 10, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a man of about 30 years old, named Alexis, married and father of two children, was found in the Kigarama district, in the commune and province of Ngozi, near a public fountain.

According to eyewitnesses, Alexis lived on Kanyami hill, in the same commune, and carried out an activity of salvaging and selling sand from ruined houses.

Disturbingly, his attackers placed two bags of rice and beans next to his body, thus appearing to indicate a motive linked to these foodstuffs. According to the same sources, everything suggests that Alexis was killed elsewhere and that his body was moved there in order to hinder a possible investigation.

The body was transferred to the morgue of the Ngozi Regional Hospital for an autopsy to determine the exact causes of death.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a rigorous and impartial investigation in order to elucidate the circumstances of this crime, identify the perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

Conclusion

The cases documented this week illustrate a persistent deterioration in the security of Burundian citizens, especially women and those with modest economic activities. The particularly violent *modus operandi* and the alleged removal of bodies to hinder investigations reflect a worrying trivialization of violence and a strong presumption of impunity.

SOS-Torture Burundi urges the competent authorities to open serious, independent and transparent investigations without delay to shed light on these murders, identify the perpetrators, the motives, and ensure that justice is done to the victims and their families.

There is an urgent need to restore confidence in the judiciary and security system, ensuring that no one is above the law and that every citizen can live in safety, without fearing for his or her life.

SOS-TORTURE

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.