

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 501 PUBLISHED ON JULY 20, 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 12 to 19 July 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura and Butanyerera.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Monday, July 14, 2025, in the morning, fishermen discovered two lifeless bodies, in an advanced state of decomposition, belonging to men in uniform of the Burundi National Defense Force (FDNB), on the banks of the Rusizi River, at the foot of the hill and area of Rukana, commune of Cibitoke, province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, the unidentified bodies were stuck in reeds. Soldiers stationed nearby quickly went to the scene, blocked access to the river and prohibited any gathering. They then took the bodies away in a military vehicle after wrapping them in plastic sheeting. To date, no investigation has been opened to identify the victims or to shed light on the circumstances of their deaths.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a rigorous, independent and impartial investigation, in order to identify the victims, determine the circumstances of their death and find the perpetrators of this double crime, so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Friday, July 18, 2025, at 5 p.m., Donatien Nduwimana, 48 years old, father of five children and owner of a restaurant located in the market of the Musenyi zone, Tangara commune, in the province of Butanyerera, died at the hospital of Ngozi as a result of the assault and battery inflicted on him on July 14, 2025 by Jean Pierre

Butoyi, President of the Tangara Residence Court, assisted by two police officers from the Tangara communal police station: OPJ Emmanuel Bizimana and agent Jean Baptiste Nijimbere.

According to eyewitnesses, Jean Pierre Butoyi, in a state of intoxication, went to the restaurant of Donatien Nduwimana, from the hill of Nyagasebeyi, in the same commune. He caused significant material damage, in particular by breaking several plates. When the owner asked him to reimburse him for the damage, the magistrate called on the two aforementioned police officers, who began to beat him violently until he lost consciousness.

After regaining his senses, Donatien Nduwimana found himself in custody in the dungeon of the Tangara police station, despite his critical state of health. As his condition worsened, he was rushed to the Musenyi health centre, then to the Musenyi community hospital, before being evacuated to Ngozi hospital, where he died.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the three alleged perpetrators of the violence that led to the death of Donatien Nduwimana were arrested on July 18, 2025 and placed in custody at the Ngozi police cell as part of an ongoing investigation.

Conclusion

The cases documented by SOS-Torture Burundi during the period from 12 to 19 July 2025 illustrate once again the persistence of serious human rights violations in Burundi, including assassinations, police violence, impunity and abuse of power by certain judicial and police authorities.

The discovery of the lifeless bodies of uniformed soldiers, left unidentified and uninvestigated, as well as the brutal death of Donatien Nduwimana following violence committed by state agents, testify to an alarming climate of insecurity, abuse of authority and profound dysfunctions in the administration of justice.

SOS-Torture Burundi recalls that the State has the obligation to guarantee the safety of all citizens, to prevent abuses and to punish their perpetrators in accordance with the law. To this end, the organization reiterates its call for rigorous, independent and impartial investigations to shed light on these violations, ensure justice for the victims and put an end to impunity.

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.