

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 506 PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 24, 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 16 to 23 August 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered by unidentified individuals in Gitega province.

The report also notes the case of one (1) person who was severely tortured by Imbonerakure in Bujumbura province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- In a period of only 4 four days, in the Nyabikere zone of Shombo commune, Gitega province, three men were violently murdered by unidentified individuals. Since then, a climate of fear of impunity for the perpetrators of blood crimes has settled in the population of Nyabikere.

On Saturday, August 16, 2025, the lifeless body of 50-year-old Cuma Ndikumana was found on Taba hill, in the Nyabikere zone. According to eyewitnesses, his attackers tied his body to a tree before fleeing.

On Sunday, August 17, 2025, the lifeless body of 42-year-old Joseph Nyamweru was found on Muhororo Hill in the same zone of Nyabikere. According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body had been horribly mutilated with machete blows.

On Tuesday, August 19, 2025, the lifeless body of Melchiade Nzeyimana, 48, was discovered on Ngugo hill, still in the Nyabikere zone, near the Nyabikere Communal High School. According to testimonies from the residents of his native hill, Melchiade Nzeyimana was murdered after selling his cow and his body bore traces of strangulation on his neck with blood in his mouth.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of this series of particularly violent killings, bring them to justice and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On the night of Tuesday to Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at around one o'clock in the morning, four Imbonerakure¹ on night patrol, Constantin Ndabirorere and his son Kelly Ndabirorere, Jean Claude Ndayishimiye alias Bire and the nicknamed Bwayaze, violently tortured and injured a man known as Manassé Nibaruta on the hill of Murengeza, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province.

According to members of his family, Manassé Nibaruta's attackers, ordered by the leader of the CNDD-FDD on this hill, Jean Bosco Ndayisenga, called him while he was sleeping at his home. As soon as he left his house, they beat him horribly with clubs and sticks, and seriously injured him with machetes. The same sources specify that, during this torture session, these Imbonerakure also uttered insults against him, accusing him of supporting a certain Oswald, a candidate in the next hill elections, who advocates change on the hill of Murengeza through the election of new hill councillors, given that the current councillors are plagued by corruption, economic malfeasance and lack of respect for human rights.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that the perpetrators of these atrocious acts of torture remain free despite the existence of overwhelming evidence. It calls for all the perpetrators of the crime, who are well identified, to be immediately arrested and brought to justice so that they can be punished accordingly.

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



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.