

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 507 PUBLISHED ON 31 AUGUST 2025

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 23 to 30 August 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered by unidentified individuals in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega.

The report also notes the case of one (1) person who was severely tortured by Imbonerakure in Burunga province and one (1) person who was abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Bujumbura province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Saturday, August 23, 2025, during the day, the lifeless body of Mathias Mpfakurera, 69, was discovered floating on the waters of the Ruvyironza River, at the foot of the Jurwe hill, Bukoro zone of Gishubi commune, Gitega province.

According to eyewitnesses, the decomposing body of Mathias Mpfakurera, from Gasasa hill, Makebuko zone, in the commune and province of Gitega, was buried on the same day on Jurwe hill.

The same sources said that the identity of the perpetrators, as well as the circumstances of this murder, have not been clarified.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an urgent, impartial and thorough investigation to identify and arrest the perpetrators of this crime so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, during the day, a lifeless body of an unidentified man, aged about fifty, was found on the banks of the Mugere River, at the foot of the Gatobo hill, Mayuyu zone, Rwibaga commune, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, the body had gaping wounds on the head and right eye that prove that the man was murdered with clubs. They believe he was killed elsewhere and that his body was transported there to cover the tracks of a subsequent investigation. The body was transferred to the morgue of Mukike Hospital pending burial.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation to identify the victim, search for and arrest the perpetrators of the crime so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Saturday, August 23, 2025, in the afternoon, at around 5:45 p.m., several Imbonerakure¹ led by Vincent Nemerimana, chief of Mutwana Hill in Musongati commune, Burunga province, and Bernard Ntirandekura, local CNDD-FDD official on this hill, violently tortured a man known as Gervais Hakizimana, living in the same hill of Mutwana, on unfounded accusations of having conducted an electoral campaign on the occasion of the elections of hill and district councillors, on August 25, 2025, when the official period was closed.

According to eyewitnesses, Gervais Hakizimana was subjected to several hours of beatings before being released and ordered to disappear. He claims to have tried to file a complaint the next day at the Giharo police station, but without success because the municipal commissioner retorted that the judicial police officers are busy dealing with electoral files.

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 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 known, to be immediately arrested and brought to justice so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

3. Case of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Sunday, August 24, 2025, in the afternoon, around 4 p.m., agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) kidnapped Donatien Mbonicura, commissioner and manager of the houses belonging to the former Prime Minister, Police General Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni (currently incarcerated in the central prison of Gitega), in the Kinindo district, zone and commune of Mukaza, in the province of Bujumbura and led him to an unknown destination.

According to witnesses, Donatien Mbonicura, a native of the Matyazo hill in the former commune of Rusaka of the former province of Mwaro, had been arrested with a tenant of one of Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni's houses, a certain Papy Mumbere Katsuva, of Congolese nationality, but he was released some time later.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the General Administration of the SNR to reveal the fate of Donatien Mbonicura and to release him.



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.