

## **SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 508 PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 30 August to 6 September 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, four (4) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura, Burunga and Gitega.

### **1. Violation of the right to life**

- On Tuesday, September 2, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a man named Jean Marie, aged in his thirties, was found on the football field of the Shatanya district, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to the testimonies of the residents of the Shatanya district, Jean Marie, originally from the Nyamagana hill of the commune of Bugendana, in the same province of Gitega, was a night watchman at a pharmacy located in front of the building called Kombokombo. He was allegedly killed while trying to oppose bandits who wanted to rob the said pharmacy. The body was transferred to the regional hospital of Gitega pending burial.

- On Tuesday, September 2, 2025, in the afternoon, at around 5:30 p.m., an agent of the Burundi National Police (PNB) known as Elie Butoyi shot dead Rémégie Murekambanze on the sub-hill of Nyabisaka, hill of Ntobwe, Mungwa zone, in the commune and province of Gitega, during his transfer on a motorcycle to the dungeon in the Mungwa area after his arrest in the rural district of Karera where he resided.

According to eyewitnesses, Rémégie Murekambanze, an activist of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL) party, Agathon Rwasa's wing, asked policeman Elie

Butoyi to stop for a while so that he could buy a phone credit to warn his family, a request he flatly rejected. Faced with his insistence, the policeman violently pushed him to the ground before opening fire, firing more than twenty bullets. Rémégie then succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

The same sources specify that after the tragedy, residents of this locality alerted the administrator of the commune of Gitega, Dr. Jacques Nduwimana, who quickly sent his vehicle to evacuate the body of the victim to the regional hospital of Gitega, while the perpetrator of the crime immediately fled on the same motorcycle.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the active search for the perpetrators of these crimes, especially the already well-identified policeman Elie Butoyi, so that they can be arrested, brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Tuesday, September 2, 2025, during the night, an unidentified young woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was shot dead by a Burundian soldier on the hill of Nyamitanga, Ndava zone, Bukinanyana commune, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to the testimony of the residents of the hill of Nyamitanga, the pregnant woman was carrying ten cans of fuel from the DRC. She was killed by several bullets while being checked by soldiers on patrol at the Rusizi River, on the border between Burundi and the DRC. The body of the victim was transferred by the administrator of Bukinanyana to the morgue of the Gasenyi hospital.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the arrest of the soldier in question so that he can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, September 4, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a retired policeman known as Athanase Manirakiza was discovered in a tripsacum field on the hill of Gitwaro, Binyuro zone, Bururi commune, Burunga province.

According to members of his family, Athanase Manirakiza had been missing since Tuesday, September 2, 2025 when he was returning from the post office of Rweza in the commune of Vyanda to withdraw money. He was murdered by strangulation by as-yet-unidentified individuals who also stole his money.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation to find the perpetrators of the crime and punish them in accordance with the law.

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.