

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 510 PUBLISHED ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 13 to 20 September 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, one (1) person was murdered in the province of Bujumbura.

The report also mentions the case of five (5) people who were violently beaten and seriously injured by Imbonerakure¹ in the province of Burunga.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, in the morning, a lifeless body of an unidentified man was found in a bush on the hill of Gabiro-Ruvyagira, Rugombo zone, Cibitoke commune, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body was in an advanced state of decomposition and was decapitated and covered in grass. The administrator of the commune of Cibitoke, Eloge Najeneza, ordered the burial of the body on the same day, without waiting for the opening of an investigation for the identification of the victim and the perpetrators of the crime.

SOS-torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators and circumstances of the crime so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

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

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Monday, September 15, 2025, during the day, Imbonerakure from Kibimba hill, Butezi zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province violently beat and seriously injured the local leader of the UPRONA² party in Butezi zone, Théoneste Juma, his wife named Judith and his children named Sarah, Naasson and Leyarine. They were evacuated to the municipal hospital of Giharo at around 10 p.m.

According to testimonies from residents of Kibimba hill, the attackers alleged "family quarrels," but Théoneste Juma's family members have denounced his political persecution by local CNDD-FDD officials since he left the party in 2019 to join the UPRONA party. Since then, a land dispute over the exploitation of the Mukazye marshes has been used as a pretext to persecute him because of his new political affiliation. Théoneste Juma had spent two years in detention for this reason, before being released in July 2023 without any case being brought against him.

The same sources regret that the perpetrators of this violent attack remain free and that no investigation has been initiated to arrest them and bring them to justice.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation to actively search for all the perpetrators of these attacks and punish them in accordance with the law.

² Union for National Progress.

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.