

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 511 PUBLISHED ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 20 to 27 September 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 Burunga.

The report also mentions the case of two (2) people who were kidnapped by agents of the Burundi National Police (PNB) and the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the province of Bujumbura.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Saturday, September 20, 2025, the lifeless body of an unidentified adolescent girl of about 15 years old was found lying on road No. 16, in the Nyamuswaga valley, on the Mahwa hill of the commune of Matana, in the province of Burunga.

According to an eyewitness, the victim's body had head injuries that prove that the teenager was killed with clubs before abandoning her body on the road to simulate a road accident.

The same sources said that the victim's body was buried the next day at the place of its discovery on the order of the local administration, without waiting for the presence of the victim's relatives or an investigation to elucidate the circumstances of his death and the identity of the perpetrators.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough and independent investigation to determine the identity and circumstances of the girl's death and identify the perpetrators of the crime.

- On Saturday, September 27, 2025, in the afternoon, around 4 p.m., soldiers on military patrol, alerted by a sickening smell, discovered two lifeless bodies in an advanced state of decomposition of two unidentified men, abandoned in the bush on the Rusiga hill of the commune of Cibitoke, in the province of Bujumbura, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to eyewitnesses, the municipal administration ordered the burial of the bodies, without waiting for an investigation to identify the victims and perpetrators of this double crime.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a credible and thorough investigation in order to identify the victims and to discover, arrest and punish the perpetrators of this double murder in accordance with the law.

3. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Sunday, September 21, 2025, in the morning, around 10 a.m., five policemen aboard a police double-cab van with tinted windows and no license plates kidnapped a retired soldier known as Audace Icoyitungiye, on the bridge of Nyabagera, at the place called "Chez Commune", in the Mutakura district, Cibitoke zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, and led him to an unknown destination in the direction of the Mutakura-Buterere section. Audace Icoyitungiye (see his photo below) worked at Binagana Hospital in Bujumbura after having worked for a long time at Kamenge Military Hospital before his retirement. He lived in the Mutakura district and is from Nyamugari hill, in the former commune of Gisozi in the province of Mwaro.



According to family members, Audace Icoyitungiye was returning from a Sunday mass at Ngagara camp with his youngest son and another man whose identity has not been revealed. It was this man who pushed him towards the van before the policemen put him in this vehicle. On that day, he had answered several times a call from a policeman called Benjamin Nzambimana, born on Gahingwa hill in Rutegama commune of Muramvya province in 1977. He was a soldier in the ex-FAB (Armed Forces of Burundi) before joining the Burundi National Police (PNB) in 2005.

According to members of his family, Benjamin Nzambimana was kidnapped on Friday, September 19, 2025. Since his abduction, his phones have remained online, but they have been disconnected since Audace Icoyitungiye's abduction. This suggests that these two kidnappings are linked and that their abductors could be the same.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the authorities of the Burundi National Police and the National Intelligence Service to reveal the fate of Benjamin Nzambimana and Audace Icoyitungiye and the place of their detention.

- On Thursday, September 25, 2025, in the morning, at around 11:30 a.m., six agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), two of whom were in PNB uniform, aboard a white double-cab van without license plates abducted a man known as Didier Mugisha, 38, from the headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Burundi (BANCOBU) and drove him to an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, Didier Mugisha, a resident of the Nyabugete district, Mugere commune, in the province of Bujumbura, had gone to the BANCOBU to withdraw money.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that Didier Mugisha, from the former commune of Mugamba (now the commune of Matana in the province of Burunga), was found alive, but violently tortured, near the “Foyer de Charité” in Bujumbura, on the night of Friday, September 26 at around 10 p.m. However, he does not know where he was taken or the identity of his torturers, as he was blindfolded throughout the period of his abduction.

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.



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Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi

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