

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 515 PUBLISHED ON 26 OCTOBER 2025**

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 18 to 25 October 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, six (6) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega.

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

- On Saturday, October 18, 2025, during the day, a policeman whose name has not yet been identified shot dead with bullets fired at close range a man named Faustin Ishimwe on the hill of Gasenyi, Rubirizi zone, commune of Ntahangwa, in the province of Bujumbura, near the presidential palace of Gasenyi.

According to the testimony of his brother who was with him at the time of the tragedy, Faustin Ishimwe (see his photo below), from the hill of Gishingano, Isare commune, in the same province of Bujumbura, was returning from the commune of Mubimbi to retrieve his goat which was kept at his father-in-law's house when they met a policeman near the presidential palace of Gasenyi. The policeman suddenly stopped them and demanded to show the receipt for the goat, and he replied that he did not need a receipt because it was not a purchased goat, but a goat raised in Gasozo. Then, this policeman explained to them that he was going to "imprison" the goat pending the outcome of an investigation. The brothers then began to follow the policeman in order to find out the place of "detention" of the goat.



However, intriguingly, as the policeman was heading to a bush, Faustin Ishimwe asked him where he was taking them. The policeman replied that he had no order to give him. Suddenly, the policeman hit him sharply in the back with a stick and Faustin Ishimwe collapsed. The policeman then shot him four times in the head and he died instantly.

According to the same source, had it not been for the quick intervention of the soldiers ensuring the security of the presidential palace, this policeman was also preparing to assassinate the victim's brother in the same way.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that this policeman has been taken to Rubirizi cell.

The organization calls for an immediate and impartial investigation to punish the perpetrator in accordance with the law.

- On Tuesday, October 20, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a woman named Denise Bigirimana was found in a small bush on the hill of Nyamagana in the commune of Bugendana, in the province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, the exact circumstances of Denise Bigirimana's death remain unknown. They believe that the victim was murdered by individuals who have not yet been identified before abandoning her body in the bush.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation in order to determine the circumstances of Denise Bigirimana's death, identify the perpetrators of the murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Friday, October 24, 2025, at around 10 a.m., the lifeless body of a woman named Nadine Irakoze was found in her house located on the hill of Zege, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to the testimony of the victim's neighbors, Nadine Irakoze, who lived alone in her house because her husband worked in Bujumbura, was murdered by asphyxiation by individuals who have not yet been identified. These neighbors found the door of the house slightly opened and entered his bedroom with the head of the Zege hill, after knocking on the door for a long time without success.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a thorough and impartial investigation to elucidate the exact circumstances of Nadine Irakoze's death identify the perpetrators of the crime so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

- On Friday, October 24, 2024, in the morning, shortly after sunrise, workers from a Chinese company in charge of building a bridge over the Rusizi River discovered under the bridge under construction a lifeless body of an unidentified man, naked, at the foot of Kaburantwa hill, at transversal 6, Buganda zone, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province.

According to this source, this body was evacuated to the morgue of the Ubuntu Clinic located on the hill of Gasenyi, at transversal 4, on the decision of the administrative authorities.

- On Saturday, October 25, 2025, in the afternoon, around 2 p.m., farmers discovered two lifeless bodies of unidentified men in an advanced decomposition in a cassava field on Gasenyi hill, transversal 3, Buganda zone, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province.

According to eyewitnesses, the bodies were unrecognizable and were buried in the same place where they were discovered, on the decision of the Buganda zone chief.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police and administrative authorities of Buganda to open an in-depth investigation to clarify the causes of the recurrent discoveries of lifeless bodies abandoned most often in or near the Rusizi River, identify the perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law, in order to curb this criminal phenomenon that has become insoluble in this part of the national territory.

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.