

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 524 PUBLISHED ON 28 DECEMBER 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 20 to 27 December 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, ten (10) people were murdered in the provinces of Buhumuza, Bujumbura and Gitega.

The report also mentions the case of one (1) person who was kidnapped by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the province of Buhumuza

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Sunday, December 21, 2025, in the morning, a lifeless body of an unidentified woman of about 35 years old was found in the Rweru marsh located between the Bwoga and Zege districts of the city and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, the body of the victim, who has not been identified, had no injuries. Residents of the riverside districts believe that the victim was strangled by as-yet-unidentified individuals who then abandoned her body there to cover the tracks of a possible investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an impartial and thorough investigation to identify the victim, determine the circumstances of the murder, find the perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Sunday, December 21, 2025, during the day, the lifeless body of a septuagenarian known as Rose Kasa, 75 years old, was discovered in the waters of the Karonga stream separating the districts of Yoba and Zege, in the city and province of Gitega.

According to residents of the Yoba district, Rose Kasa was killed elsewhere before her body was thrown into the stream in order to make it look like she was drowning and thus distort the leads of a possible investigation.

- On Sunday, December 21, 2025, during the day, an octogenarian known as André Mabwa, over 80 years old, was murdered with an axe by individuals not yet identified at his home on the hill of Rwamvura, Kigamba zone, Cankuzo commune, in the province of Buhumuza.

According to local administrative sources, the motives for the crime have not yet been elucidated and the perpetrators of the murder fled after the crime was committed.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for credible, thorough and impartial investigations to identify the perpetrators of these crimes and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, December 24, 2025, during the day, the lifeless body of Claver Buname, 40 years old, was found on the bank of the Ruvyironza River, at the foot of the Bubaji hill of Gishubi commune, in the province of Gitega

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body had a deep wound on his forehead. The same sources believe that Claver Buname was murdered elsewhere by as-yet-unidentified individuals who then threw his body into the river to make it look like he was drowning and thus distort subsequent investigations. The body was transferred to the morgue of Ntita hospital in Gishubi commune at a time when no suspect has been apprehended.

Members of his family say that Claver Buname had been missing since Monday, December 22, 2025, when he went to his field to harvest potatoes.

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

- On Saturday, December 27, 2025, in the morning, six lifeless bodies of unidentified men in an advanced state of decomposition were discovered by farmers in their fields located between the 12th transversal of the Rusiga hill and the 1st avenue of the Murambi hill, in the zone and commune of Cibitoke of the province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, three of the bodies found were wearing FARDC (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo) uniforms, others were in civilian clothes.

The same sources specify that the administrative and security authorities who were alerted went to the scene and ordered the immediate burial of the bodies in a mass grave near the place of their discovery, without any investigation, which is mandatory in such circumstances, having been opened.

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

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Monday, December 22, 2025, at around 10 a.m., agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) kidnapped a trader known as Révérien Nyanzira alias Rugega (60 years old) in front of the branch of the Interbank bank in Ruyigi in the province of Buhumuza.

According to eyewitnesses, Révérien Nyanzira, originally from Gahemba hill in Ruyigi commune, but currently residing in the city center of this commune, not far from the central market, had gone to the bank to withdraw money so that he could then go to Gitega to stock up on goods. Suddenly, a double-cab vehicle with tinted windows of the SNR stopped in front of him and agents abruptly got out before unceremoniously loading him aboard this vehicle to an unknown destination. Since that day, no one in his family knows where he is, or why he was kidnapped.

SOS-Torture Burundi has also learned that his son, Moïse Mugisha, a male nurse at Rema Hospital in Ruyigi, was abducted on 10 November 2025 in similar circumstances by SNR agents and has been missing since that day.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the General Administration of the SNR to reveal the fate and place of detention of Révérien Nyanzira and his son Moïse Mugisha.

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.