

## **REPORT NO. 526 OF SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 11, 2026**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 3 to 10 January 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered in Bujumbura province.

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

- On Friday, December 2, 2025, in the evening, two lifeless bodies of unidentified gold miners involved in artisanal gold mining were found at the bottom of the extraction shafts on the hill of Gisaba, Buhindo zone, commune of Cibitoke, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, the two bodies in a state of decomposition were discovered in the early evening. These bodies had been tied up at the neck before being thrown into the pits by individuals who have not yet been identified. The two men had been missing since December 30, 2025, with a large amount of gold on them.

The same sources said that the bodies of the victims were buried on the same day in the locality of Buhindo on the order of the local authorities, before the opening of an investigation to identify the perpetrators of this double murder.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an urgent and thorough investigation in order to identify the perpetrators of the double crime and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Sunday, January 4, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a septuagenarian known as Lazarre Bakunduwukomeye was found at his home on the hill of Kivyibusha in the zone and commune of Mpanda, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to family members, Lazarre Bakunduwukomeye was hacked to death with machetes by as-yet-unidentified individuals. He had been living alone, separated from his wife for some time. He was often accused of witchcraft by those around him and had been the subject of death threats for several days.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to discover the perpetrators of the murder of Lazarre Bakunduwukomeye, bring them to justice 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.