

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 528 PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 25, 2026

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 17 to 24 January 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two people (2) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Saturday, January 17, 2026, in the night, Imbonerakure¹ led by a certain Jacques Kwizerimana violently killed Serapion Nibizi, 47, with sticks in the cell of the Buhindo police station, in the commune of Cibitoke of the Bujumbura province.

According to eyewitnesses, at nightfall, around 6 p.m. of the same day, Serapion Nibizi, married and father of four children, residing on the hill of Mihiza, Kiramira zone, in the same commune of Cibitoke, left his home to go to the trading center of Cibitoke, before meeting three Imbonerakure led by their chief Jacques Kwizerimana who ordered him to stop, but he refused to comply. Suddenly, these Imbonerakure began beating him violently, accusing him of disobeying their order. Later, residents of this locality intervened and asked these Imbonerakure to stop beating this citizen, but they swore to take him to the police cell. They then tied him up, his arms behind his back, before taking him on a motorcycle to the police cell at the Buhindo police station.

According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure again violently beat Serapion Nibizi, unfortunately in the presence of a policeman guarding this cell who did nothing to stop this violence. They continued to beat him until he died of the wounds. At that moment, these Imbonerakure tied a rope around Serapion Nibizi's neck and hung his body in the dungeon even to simulate suicide.

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 (CNDD-FDD).

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police and judicial authorities to open an investigation to arrest all the perpetrators of the murder of Serapion Nibizi and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the morning, around 11 a.m., the lifeless body of Gérard Nyambuga, 53, was found hanging with a rope under an avocado tree in his maize field, on Mahonda hill in Gishubi commune, Gitega province.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim, a resident of the same hill in Mahonda, had no traces of violence on his body. The residents of this hill believe that Gérard Nyambuga was killed elsewhere by individuals who have not yet been identified who then brought his body there to simulate a suicide and thus distort a subsequent investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an impartial and thorough investigation to elucidate the exact circumstances of Gérard Nyambuga's death and identify the possible perpetrators of the murder so that they can be brought to justice and punished 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.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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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