

## **SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 529 PUBLISHED ON 1 FEBRUARY 2026**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 24 to 31 January 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

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

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

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

- On Tuesday, January 27, 2026, in the morning, fishermen discovered three lifeless bodies of an unidentified man, woman and child on the banks of the Rusizi River in the locality of Gatoki, on the hill and zone of Rukana, commune of Cibitoke, in the province of Bujumbura. They immediately alerted the defense forces stationed at a surveillance position on the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who in turn notified the local administrative authorities to make the usual observations.

According to these eyewitnesses, the bodies in an advanced state of decomposition were buried at the place of their discovery on the banks of the Rusizi River on the decision of the administrative authorities.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an investigation to identify the victims, determine the circumstances of their deaths and discover the possible perpetrators so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

### 2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Thursday, January 29, 2026, in the afternoon, Fabrice Irankunda was kidnapped by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), in collaboration with Imbonerakure<sup>1</sup>, on the hill and zone of Gatsinda, commune of Ngozi, in the province of Butanyerera when he had just crossed the Kanyaru River from Rwanda.

According to eyewitnesses, Fabrice Irankunda (see his photo below) was abducted when he had just crossed the Kanyaru River, at an illegal crossing point, from Rwanda. He was driven to an unknown destination in a vehicle of the head of the SNR in Ngozi, Salvator Horihoze.

The same sources said that Fabrice Irakunda, originally from the sub-hill of Mukoni, hill of Rubumba, commune of Kiganda, in the former province of Muramvya, had returned to Burundi to participate in the funeral of his grandmother who raised him and whom he considers his own mother.



<sup>1</sup> 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

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

SOS-Torture calls on the General Administration of the National Intelligence Service to reveal the fate and place of detention of Fabrice Irankunda.

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.