

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 531 PUBLISHED ON 15 FEBRUARY 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 7 to 14 February 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, four (4) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura, Burunga and Gitega.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Thursday, February 12, 2026, at around 6 a.m., a lifeless body of an unidentified man was found in the Muyogo River, in the Muyogo district, Makamba zone and commune, in the province of Burunga.

According to eyewitnesses, the body was floating in an area containing a small amount of water. They believe that the victim was killed by as-yet-unidentified individuals before throwing his body into the river that separates the Muyogo district from the urban center of Makamba, capital of the province of Burunga.

According to the same sources, the body was transferred to the morgue of Makamba hospital pending the identification of the victim.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a thorough and profound investigation to identify the victim, clarify the circumstances of his death and discover the possible perpetrators of the crime so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, February 12, 2026, in the morning, a lifeless body of an unidentified young man, aged about 30, was discovered on the banks of the Ruvyironza River, in the Bwoga district, Nyamugari zone, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, the body was in an advanced state of decomposition. The chief of the Bwoga district, Fiacre Ndagijimana, ordered the burial of the body on the same day near the place of its discovery without waiting for the opening of an investigation to identify the victim and the circumstances of his death, as well as the possible perpetrators of the crime.

- On Friday, February 13, 2026, in the morning, a lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered on the bank of the Nyamagana River, in the Rusiga district of the Cibitoke zone and commune, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body, in a state of decomposition, had a deep wound to the head that proves that her killers violently beat her with a club, before abandoning her body at the scene of the crime.

The same sources specify that local administrative authorities, accompanied by members of the Imbonerakure youth league affiliated to the ruling party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), went to the scene of the crime and ordered the transfer of the body to the morgue of the Cibitoke hospital pending the identification of the victim.

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

- On Saturday, February 14, 2026, in the morning, the lifeless body of Cécile Ndayishimiye, a 7th grade student at the Mubuga Fundamental School, was found under a eucalyptus tree, in a cornfield, on the hill and zone of Mubuga, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, the teenager was sexually assaulted before being tied up and then murdered by as-yet-unidentified individuals.



SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

According to the head of the hill of Mubuga, Emmanuel Misigaro, the girl had been missing since the day before, after leaving her home to visit a classmate living on the same hill.

The victim's body was transferred to a health facility at a time when no suspect has yet been arrested.

SOS-torture Burundi calls for an immediate and thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of the crime, 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.