

## **SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 532 PUBLISHED ON 22 FEBRUARY 2026**

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 14 to 21 February 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, one (1) person was murdered in Bujumbura province.

The report also denounces the cases of six (6) people who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained, including five journalists arrested in the course of their work.

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

- On Thursday, February 19, 2026, in the morning, the lifeless body of a man identified as Samuel Ciza, 48 years old, was found in a gutter on the hill of Nyempundu, Nyamakarabo zone, commune of Mugina, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, Samuel Ciza's body had a large bruise on the head that proves that he was murdered with blunt objects by as-yet-unidentified individuals. Family members say that Samuel Ciza had left his home the previous evening to share a glass of beer with acquaintances in the locality of Gikomero and that he had not returned home since.

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

### **2. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions**

- On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in the morning, three journalists from "Papy Jamaica Video", Amani Papy Ndikumana nicknamed Papy Jamaica (general manager of this private medium) and his assistant, as well as Tchandrou Nitanga (photographer and correspondent for Agence France Presse, AFP) were arbitrarily

arrested in the premises of the Burundian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, in Bujumbura, the economic capital, while they were covering the visit of Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management. They were immediately taken for questioning to the cell of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) before being released the same day in the evening at around 9:15 p.m.

According to eyewitnesses, the three journalists were arrested while they were waiting for the European Commissioner's statement, following her meeting with Burundi's Minister of External Relations, Édouard Bizimana. The latter is said to have ordered the arrest of these journalists, accusing them of "illegal taking of images".

The three journalists were questioned on a number of topics, including their collaboration with foreign media and the income they receive. Their phones were searched and confiscated by the intelligence services.

- On the morning of Wednesday, February 18, 2026, two journalists from Magazine Jimbere, Olivier Manirambona and Aline Niyonizigiye (photographer and breastfeeding mother), and one of the parties to the conflict, Siméon Ngenzebuhoro (former member of Parliament), were arbitrarily arrested by the Ntakangwa prosecutor's office as the two journalists were going to follow the execution of a judgment relating to a land dispute, 21 years old, by the Ntakangwa High Court and were placed in detention in the cell of the Ngagara zone, north of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, the two journalists were charged, without evidence, with rebellion by judges in charge of the execution of this judgment.

On Friday morning, the prosecutor general at the Ntakangwa Court of Appeal, Eraste Ndayiragije, ordered the provisional release of these two journalists of Magazine Jimbere while they were expected for a trial in flagrante, which ultimately did not take place. He also decided to return their work equipment, while specifying that investigations are continuing and that they have the obligation not to deviate from the



## SOS – Torture/Burundi

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

Bujumbura town hall without prior authorization and to report to the office every Friday.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the Burundian authorities to respect press freedom and protect the rights of journalists.

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.

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