

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 540 PUBLISHED ON APRIL 19, 2026

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 April 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 case of one (1) person who was arbitrarily arrested and detained in the province of Bujumbura.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Thursday, April 16, 2026, early in the morning, residents of Kivoga hill, Rubirizi zone of Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, discovered the lifeless body of the Minister of Communication and Media, Gabby Bugaga (see his photo below taken at the time of her swearing-in), in his vehicle in a palm plantation, about ten meters from the Bujumbura-Bubanza road crossing hundreds of hectares of oil palm for several kilometers, not far from the Maranatha High School in Kivoga.



According to eyewitnesses, Minister Gabby Bugaga's body had a large wound on his swollen face, but there was no trace of blood inside the vehicle or on his clothes, except for two small drops on his short. Indeed, the body of Gabby Bugaga, dressed in shorts and a polo shirt, with white sports shoes, was lying at the steering wheel, half lying in the front seat of the vehicle, with one left leg hanging through the open window of the door. In addition, traces of a strong impact are visible on the right side of the vehicle whose rear plate F6525A had been removed (see photos of the crime scene below).





In addition, residents of Kivoga claim that Minister Gabby Bugaga's vehicle was already parked there at around 3 a.m. and that the police had cordoned off the area by 5 a.m.

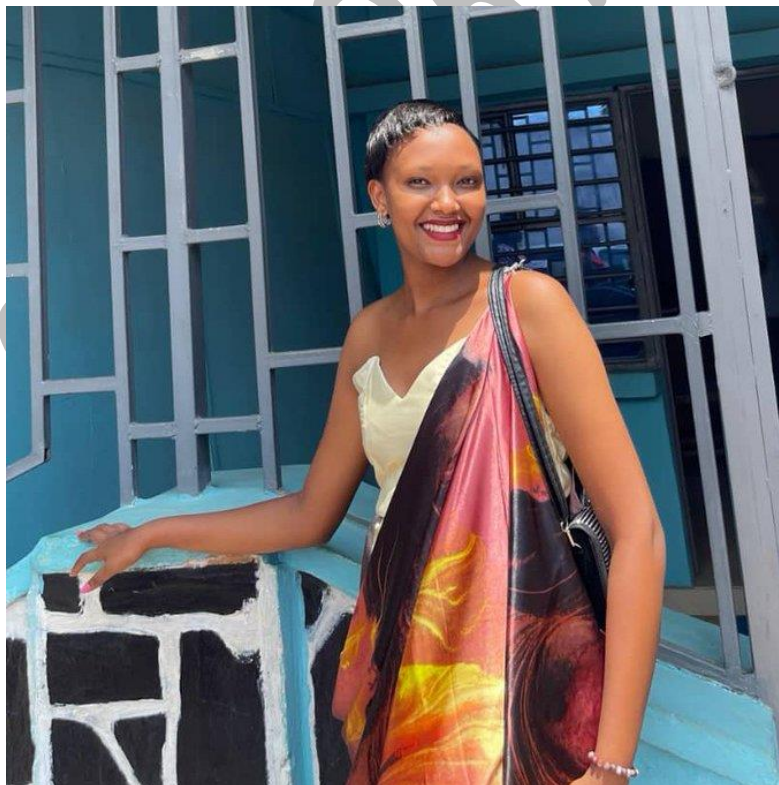
Although the official authorities of the Government of Burundi, in this case the Head of State and the Government Spokesman, hastily concluded, without any prior investigation necessary in such circumstances, that the Minister of Communication and Media had died unexpectedly following a road accident, it is legitimate to think

that the Minister would have been murdered elsewhere before his body was deposited in his vehicle to simulate a traffic accident.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation to determine the circumstances of the death of Minister Gabby Bugaga, to identify, arrest the perpetrators of his murder and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrest and detention

- On Saturday, April 11, 2026, at around noon, a girl identified as Elysa Mutoni (see her photo below) was arrested in the form of kidnapping at her home located at 5th Avenue No. 42 of the Musama district, Kanyosha zone, in the city of Bujumbura, by three men in uniform of the Burundi National Police (PNB) and another in civilian clothes who then took her to an unknown destination.



According to sources of her family members, at the time of her arrest, these policemen suspected as agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) claimed that they were driving her, on foot, to the office in the Kanyosha zone, after forbidding anyone to follow them, but finally drove her to an unknown location in a Toyota Probox car with tinted windows, hidden in the Kanyoha zone.

Later, SOS-Torture Burundi learned that the daughter Elysa Mutoni, a waitress at the Restaurant *La Silhouette* in Bujumbura, was taken to the SNR headquarters for interrogation before being transferred during the night, at 8 p.m., to the cell of the Bujumbura Municipal Police Station, commonly known as the Special Research Bureau (BSR) where members of her family were finally allowed to visit her.

SOS-Torture Burundi has learned that Elysa Mutoni was finally released on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 after three days spent in arbitrary detention in the BSR cell, but that her phone was illegally confiscated.

SOS-torture Burundi calls for an end to arrests in the form of kidnappings and for scrupulous compliance with the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding deprivation of liberty.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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.