

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 541 PUBLISHED ON 26 APRIL 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 18 to 25 April 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Buhumuza and Gitega.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in the morning, the lifeless body of Liboire Barandagiye, 44, was discovered hanging from an avocado tree with a rope on the hill of Mahonda, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, Liboire Barandagiye was killed elsewhere by as-yet-unidentified individuals who then hung his body to simulate suicide and thus distort the leads of a subsequent investigation.

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

The organization is also concerned about the increase in cases of people being murdered and whose bodies are then abandoned in the nature in the province of Gitega, and calls on the authorities concerned to take concrete measures to curb this phenomenon, which has been recurrent for some time.

- On Saturday, April 25, 2026, at around 5 a.m., two people were murdered in a nearby time on the hill of Musumba, Ruyigi zone and commune, in the province of Buhumuza.

According to eyewitnesses, a man residing in the locality called Kigangabuko and whose name is not yet identified went to his mother-in-law's house to demand the return of his dowry following the abandonment of his family by his wife with their two children whom she had brought back to her mother, after learning that his wife had recently remarried another man. This is how he went to ask for the return of his dowry. At the sight of his mother-in-law, without even waiting for an answer, he took out a new machete and chased her until he killed her.

According to the same sources, Imbonerakure from¹ this locality directly killed the attacker and then burned him alive to ensure the certainty of his death.

SOS-Torture calls on the state authorities to do everything possible to put an end to mob justice that seems to be rooted in the communities. It calls for the opening of an impartial investigation to identify the perpetrators of this act of mob vindictiveness, bring them to justice and punish them in accordance with the law.

¹ Members of 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/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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