

## **SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 538 PUBLISHED ON 5 APRIL 2026**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 28 March to 4 April 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, deux (2) persons were murdered in Gitega province.

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

- On Wednesday, April 1, 2026, during the day, the lifeless body of a man identified as Etienne Nshimirimana, 33 years old, was found inside his home located on Bubaji hill, in Gishubi commune of Gitega province.

According to eyewitnesses, the exact circumstances and motive for this death remain unclear. Although the local administration suggests suicide, neighbors of the victim believe that Etienne Nshimirimana was killed elsewhere by individuals not yet identified before depositing his body at his home to simulate a suicide and thus distort the leads of a subsequent investigation. His body was buried the same day on the order of the local administration.

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

- On Saturday, April 4, 2026, at nightfall, a policeman identified as Osias Irankunda shot and killed a motorcyclist known as Nestor Nininahazwe alias Gasazi (see below for the photo of the crime scene) in a bistro in Kibungere Parish, Kibungere hill, commune of Nyabihanga, in the province of Gitega.



According to eyewitnesses, the policeman who provides security for the parish of Kibungere asked Nestor Nininahazwe, a married father of three, to offer him a beer, and the latter rejected his request. Angry and in a diabolical momentum, this policeman went to his position to take his service weapon and immediately returned to the bistro to murder the victim.

The same sources specify that after the commission of the crime, the policeman Osias Irankunda (see below his photo) tried to take refuge in the Kibungere parish to blend in with the faithful who were celebrating the Easter Vigil Mass but that he was finally apprehended by Imbonerakure<sup>1</sup> who then handed him over to the police commissioner in Mwaro.

<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 calls for the opening of an independent investigation in order to punish the perpetrator of the crime in accordance with the law.



## 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.