



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 544 PUBLISHED ON MAY 17, 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 9 to 16 May 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega and three (3) others were seriously wounded by gunfire fired by policemen in the province of Bujumbura.

The report also denounces the case of one (1) person who was arbitrarily arrested and detained by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the province of Bujumbura.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Saturday, May 9, 2026, in the morning, the lifeless body of a woman identified as Anitha Ndayishimiye, 35 years old, was found inside her home located on the hill of Mugutu, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, the body of Anitha Ndayishimiye, who lived alone in her home, was beginning to decompose at the time of its discovery. The body was buried the same day without the opening of an investigation to determine the circumstances and motive for this murder.

- On Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the morning, the lifeless body of a woman known as Pétronie Nzeyimana, a 60-year-old mother of 9 children, was discovered on the side of the road, near a bridge, on Maza hill in Gishubi commune, Gitega province.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body bore several facial wounds that show that Pétronie Nzeyimana was murdered with clubs as she was returning home.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for urgent and thorough investigations to identify the perpetrators of these killings, bring them to justice and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, May 14, 2026, in the night, at around 11 p.m., policemen from a position in the Rugombo zone shot and killed a young man identified as Eric Niyongabo and seriously wounded three others on Samwe hill, Rugombo zone, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province.

According to eyewitnesses, it all began with an altercation over a woman between two men, a certain Janvier and Jean Gasore, a former CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy) combatant at the time of the maquis. It was indeed around 6 p.m. on May 14, 2026 when the two men found themselves at the home of a woman residing on the hill of Samwe, while claiming to be both partners of this woman. After a while, the argument finally ended and everyone returned to their homes, with the surrounding population believing that the two men had reconciled.

However, during the same night, at around 11 p.m., Jean Gasore called two policemen to arrest Janvier at his home. However, they were met with resistance from members of Janvier's family, supported by other residents of the locality, who refused to arbitrarily arrest him in the absence of any arrest warrant. This is how these police agents asked for reinforcement from other three agents to arrest and take Janvier away. But even with the arrival of reinforcements, the population continued to refuse this arbitrary arrest.

Suddenly, and in anger, these policemen opened fire, firing several bullets into the crowd. In widespread panic, three people were seriously injured instantly, while others dispersed to seek shelter. However, these five policemen and Jean Gasore were observing the movement of anyone who tried to show themselves. This is how a citizen known as Eric Niyongabo fell into their ambush as he was returning

home. These policemen ordered him to raise his hands, with his back to them. Suddenly, a policeman shot him in the pelvis which finally went through the navel. At this point, the police rushed to their position before the head of the station arrived on the scene to observe the incident. The injured were evacuated to a local health facility, the AGAPE Clinic, where Eric Niyongabo died during the same night.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate and impartial investigation to arrest all the perpetrators of these crimes, bring them to justice and punish them in accordance with the law.

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

- On Monday, May 11, 2026, at 11:16 a.m., agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) arbitrarily arrested, and in the form of kidnapping, Jean Marie Vianney Manirakiza, a geologist employee of the BUCECO (Burundi Cement Company) factory, near the Cibitoke market, in the commune of Cibitoke in the province of Bujumbura, as he was returning to his service after a field work mission.

According to members of his family, Jean Marie Vianney Manirakiza, 41 years old and from the commune of Muremera, in the former commune of Giheta in the province of Gitega, but domiciled in the Gihosha zone of Bujumbura, had been sent on the same day on a field mission to the locality of Binyange in the same commune of Cibitoke. On his return to his service, he was arrested by SNR agents who drove him in their vehicle to an unknown destination. In addition, the same sources specify that Jean Marie Vianney Manirakiza is a former militant of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party close to Agathon Rwaswa.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

SOS-Torture Burundi learned the next day that Jean Marie Vianney Manirakiza is being held in the cell of the Cibitoke Brigade, but no information has yet filtered out on the motive for his arbitrary arrest or the reasons for his detention.

The organization calls for the immediate release of Jean Marie Vianney Manirakiza, who is being held outside the legal framework of the relevant provisions on deprivation of liberty.

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.