

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 542 PUBLISHED ON MAY 3, 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 25 April to 2 May 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, five (5) people were murdered by soldiers and police in the provinces of Burunga and Butanyerera.

The report also denounces the case of one (1) person who was violently beaten and seriously injured by Imbonerakure¹ in the province of Buhumuza.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Monday, April 27, 2026, in the afternoon, a soldier known as Corporal Albert Hatungimana, registration number HR19568/56182, died at Makamba hospital as a result of acts of violence inflicted on him at the Mabanda camp by his comrades, on April 23, 2026, under the order of the deputy commander of the Mabanda camp, Major Gilbert Manirakiza alias Kibogoye, registration number SS1093. His subordinates then violently beat Corporal Albert Hatungimana until he lost consciousness, with a great hemorrhage.

Indeed, according to eyewitnesses, on April 22, 2026, Corporal Albert Hatungimana went to the Mabanda center for a moment of relaxation. Intoxicated from excessive drinking, he entered a shop where an argument broke out with civilians, who accused him of pushing them. In this confusion, customers left without paying four bottles of juice, and about three kilograms of rice spilled. Afterwards, police officers intervened and arrested Corporal Albert Hatungimana whom they placed in preventive detention, just long enough to recover his senses. The next day, he reimbursed the rice and drinks before being released and returning to his camp, where he was also placed in a disciplinary sentence. It was during his detention at

¹ Members of the ruling party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD).

the guardhouse that the deputy commander of the camp, Gilbert Manirakiza, ordered his subordinates to beat him seriously.

Following the worsening of his health condition, Corporal Albert Hatungimana was first urgently transferred on April 24, 2026 to the camp infirmary, then to Makamba hospital where he finally gave up the ghost, despite intensive care that had been provided to him.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an immediate and impartial investigation in order to arrest all the soldiers involved in this murder as a result of the physical violence, especially the instigator of this crime, and to punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, April 29, 2026, in the afternoon, around 3 p.m., the chief of police station in Mparamirundi named Franck murdered four men suspected of coffee fraud whose names are not yet identified on the hill and zone of Mparamirundi of the commune of Kayanza, in the province of Butanyerera.

According to eyewitnesses, the head of the police station Franck and a team on patrol saw, between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m., a dozen people suspected of smuggling coffee to Rwanda. While others managed to flee, the police were able to apprehend two men among them and took them to their position in the Mparamirundi zone.

During the morning and on information obtained from those arrested, the head of the Mparamirundi police station launched a manhunt against the fugitive smugglers. Initially, three men were arrested and taken to their position. After refusing to enter the dungeon and trying to alert the surrounding population, the head of the police station shot them all on the spot, accusing them of wanting to escape. Subsequently, the police fired in the air to disperse a crowd that had rushed to the scene of the tragedy and blocked a street passing very close to the position and which allows you to observe everything that is happening at this position. Almost at the same

time, other police officers took another arrested citizen to his hiding place and, suddenly, the head of the police station shot him in the same place as the three others already executed.

According to the same source, police officers immediately dug a mass grave on the same position where they hastily buried the victims in an attempt to erase the traces of the crime.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate investigation to arrest all police officers at the Mparamirundi police station involved in the extrajudicial execution of these victims and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Friday, April 24, 2026, in the evening, around 7 p.m., Imbonerakure led by a certain Pascal Mateso from Kavumwe hill, Ndemeka zone, Gisuru commune, in the province of Buhumuza, violently beat and seriously injured a resident of the same hill identified as Matthieu Ciza, when he was returning home from the market.

According to members of his family, these Imbonerakure, lying in ambush in a bush, attacked Matthieu Ciza, then violently beat him before leaving him for dead, in a state of unconsciousness. He was urgently evacuated to a local health facility.

Since that day, these Imbonerakure have remained free, although they are well identified, and the members of Matthieu Ciza's family live in terror and fear that they will be attacked in turn.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate and impartial investigation to identify all the perpetrators who participated in the beatings inflicted on the victim, to bring them to justice and to punish them 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.