

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 545 PUBLISHED ON MAY 24, 2026

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 16 to 23 May 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered in the provinces of Buhumuza and Gitega.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Thursday, May 21, 2026, at around 8 a.m., a young man identified as Jean de Dieu Hakizimana, 28 years old, died in a cell of the Gitega provincial police station, two days after his arbitrary and violent arrest by Imbonerakure¹ on the hill of Zege, in the commune and province of Gitega, the political capital of Burundi.

According to eyewitnesses, Jean de Dieu Hakizimana was arbitrarily arrested on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 20 at the home of his friend Fleury Rivuzimana by two Imbonerakure identified as Onesphore Ndwuwarugira, deputy chief of Zege hill, and Fulgence Bimenyimana, local leader of the CNDD-FDD party on the same hill. At the time of his arrest, Jean de Dieu Hakizimana was violently beaten by these Imbonerakure who accused him of stealing a goat, before transferring him in critical condition at around 8 p.m. to the dungeon of the Gitega provincial police station where he later succumbed to his wounds.

The same sources say that after the death was confirmed, the body of Jean de Dieu Hakizimana was first transferred to the morgue of the Gitega regional hospital, before being buried the next day, May 22, without waiting for the opening of an investigation to arrest the perpetrators of this murder who remain free.

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



SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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

- On Thursday, May 21, 2026, in the morning, the lifeless body of a retired soldier named Jean-Claude, in his fifties, was discovered near the Mugeru market in the commune of Gisagara, in the province of Buhumuza. The circumstances and cause of death are not yet clear.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for a thorough investigation to determine the circumstances of the death, identify the possible perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

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.