

## **SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 547 PUBLISHED ON 7 JUNE 2026**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 30 May to 6 June 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, one (1) person was severely tortured by Imbonerakure<sup>1</sup> in Bujumbura province.

The report also denounces the cases of two (2) people who were kidnapped by soldiers and police in the provinces of Bujumbura and Butanyerera.

### **1. Violation of the right to physical integrity**

- On Thursday, June 4, 2026, during the night, four Imbonerakure, Yves Kwizera, Samson Ndayisenga, Fabrice Nduwayo and a certain Bikorimana, led by their chief in village 5, Buringa zone, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province, violently beat and seriously injured a man known as Rémy Hakizimana, accusing him of wanting to steal rice from the fields they guard at night.

According to members of his family, these Imbonerakure viciously attacked Rémy Hakizimana since they knew him well because he was also a night watchman of the fish ponds in the same locality. They then violently beat him with clubs and kicked him all over his body, especially in the stomach, to the point of no longer being able to walk. He has a swollen belly with bloody urine.

The same sources say that Rémy Hakizimana was evacuated to the Saint Augustin hospital in Gihanga, but that doctors have requested his transfer to Bujumbura for specialized care. However, due to lack of means, he is still languishing at home, in critical condition, after being taken to the head of the hill of Mpanda village 5 to

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the youth league affiliated to the ruling CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy).

demand that the perpetrators of the acts of torture cover the patient's care, while they continue to move freely, without any concern.

SOS-torture Burundi calls for the opening of an immediate investigation to arrest the perpetrators of acts of torture of Rémy Hakizimana and to have him treated urgently in an appropriate health institution.

### **2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance**

- On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, during the day, a man identified as Thaddée Ciza was abducted by police officers on the hill and zone of Mparamirundi, Kayanza commune, in the province of Butanyerera, while returning to Burundi from Rwanda, and was taken to an unknown destination.

According to members of his family, Thaddée Ciza, 46 years old and originally from Rubagabaga hill, Mbirizi zone, Gatara commune, Butanyerera province, had lived in Rwanda for nearly 20 years where he carried out a commercial activity in the locality of Kimironko, while his family, consisting of his wife and five children, lives on his native hill. This is why he made regular trips between Rwanda and Burundi to visit his family.

According to eyewitnesses, Thaddée Ciza was arrested by police agents shortly after entering Burundian soil before driving him to an unknown destination. Since that day, his mobile phone has been switched off and no official information on his place of detention or his state of health has been communicated by the Burundi National Police (PNB).

SOS-Torture Burundi later learned that Thaddée Ciza was arbitrarily arrested in the form of kidnapping and that he is being held in the dungeon of the Kirundo Judicial Police in the capital of the commune of Kirundo, in the province of Butanyerera

where he would be accused, among other things, without evidence, of collaboration with the March 23 Movement (M23).

The organization calls for the release of Thaddée Ciza, an end to the arrests in the form of kidnappings and compliance with the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure on deprivation of liberty.

- On Friday, June 5, 2026, in the afternoon, at around 1 p.m., a soldier named Corporal Gérard Bizimana nicknamed Muhinga, also known by the first name of Aimé, 34 years old, was kidnapped by his comrades in arms in a bar called "Chez Lewis" (in reference to its owner, Lewis Niyongabo, former MP) located in Musaga, near the New Force gas station, in the Bujumbura town hall and drove him in a pick-up vehicle with tinted windows to an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, at the time of his arrest, Gérard Bizimana, assigned to the military intelligence service (G2) within the Para Battalion based in Kinanira in Bujumbura, was sharing a meal with an Imbonerakure known as Cédric Ishimwe, who was very active in the locality of Musaga, with whom he had a friendly relationship. A white double-cab vehicle with tinted windows then arrived on the scene before a man in civilian clothes, armed with a pistol, got out and positioned himself near where the soldier was. He waited for the two men to finish eating before trying to arrest Gérard Bizimana who tried to resist this arbitrary arrest. Then, two uniformed soldiers got out of the vehicle to subdue the soldier and force him into the pick-up, before speeding off to an unknown destination.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the military authorities to reveal the place of detention and the fate of Corporal Gérard Bizimana.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations underway in Burundi through



## SOS - Torture/Burundi

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

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.