

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 549 PUBLISHED ON JUNE 21, 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 13 to 20 June 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, one (1) person was murdered in Gitega province.

The report also denounces the case of one (1) of a repatriated man who was kidnapped by soldiers in the province of Butanyerera.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Monday, June 15, 2026, during the day, Léonce Ndayumvire, a teacher at the Notre-Dame d'Espérance School (under the agreement of the Emmanuel Community of the Good Shepherd parish of Shatanya) located in the province of Gitega, succumbed to his injuries at the regional hospital of Gitega where he had been evacuated urgently after being the victim of a grenade attack the night before in the Nyabiharage district located in the city of Gitega.

According to members of his family, on the night of Sunday to Monday, June 15, 2026 at 2:15 a.m., Léonce Ndayumvire received a phone call from a person who claimed that he had come to deliver a letter to him. He then got up to open the door and talk to the visitor. Shortly after this brief exchange, a grenade was thrown at him. The explosion caused serious injuries, including to his head and arm.

The same sources said that Léonce Ndayumvire was rushed to the regional hospital of Gitega where he was admitted to intensive care, before succumbing to his injuries the next day. Since then, no suspects have been arrested, although local authorities say an investigation has been opened to identify the perpetrators of the murder.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an independent and thorough investigation in order to identify the perpetrators of this crime and punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Wednesday, June 17, 2026, in the night, a Burundian returnee named Jean-Claude Nintunze alias Mazuru, was arrested in the form of kidnapping on the hill and zone of Bugabira by soldiers accompanied by the chief of the Imbonerakure¹ of Kirundo, in the province of Butanyerera, and took him directly to the dungeon of the Bugabira zone, before taking him, the next day, to an unknown destination.

According to family members, Jean-Claude Nintunze (see his photo below) had been repatriated from Rwanda since 2021, and was often manhandled and arrested, from time to time by agents of the Burundi National Police (PNB) or by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). This persecution forced him to flee again to Rwanda, where life was also not so easy for him, a situation that forced him to return to Burundi once again.



¹ Members of the youth league affiliated to the ruling 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

According to eyewitnesses, on the day of his abduction, Jean-Claude Nintunze had gone to Bugabira for a family matter. After his arrest, he was taken to the cell in the Bugabira zone where he spent the night. However, the next day, many soldiers in a pick-up van came to take him out of the dungeon to an unknown destination.

Since that day, his family members have searched everywhere, but in vain.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the military authorities in Kirundo to immediately communicate the place of detention of Jean-Claude Nintunze of and to ensure his physical and moral integrity.

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.