



# 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. 550 PUBLISHED ON 28 JUNE 2026**

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 20 to 27 June 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, four (4) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura, Butanyerera and Gitega.

The report also denounces the case of one (1) retired soldier who was kidnapped in the province of Bujumbura.

### **1. Violation of the right to life**

- On Sunday, June 21, 2026, in the night, a woman named Annonciate Niyonzima, about 8 months pregnant and 26 years old, was brutally murdered with a hammer by as yet unidentified individuals on the hill and zone of Gitohera, Murwi commune, in the province of Bujumbura and her body was found the next morning.

According to family sources, Annonciate Niyonzima, a native of Nyamugari hill in Kiganda commune (former Muramvya province), received a phone call from a man who claimed to be the father of the child she was carrying and invited her to join him. She had indeed had a new relationship with this man, after the separation from the father of her first two children. But this new relationship would not have received the approval of some members of this man's family who would have even shown great hostility to her.

On her way to the meeting place, Annonciate Niyonzima was ambushed by the men who violently hit her on the head with a hammer and died on the spot. The victim's body was buried two days later, on June 23, 2026, in a context of slow investigations to identify the perpetrators of this murder.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial and thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of the assassination and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Monday, June 22, 2026, during the day, a lifeless body of an unidentified man was found on the banks of the Ruvyironza River, at the foot of the Rwingiri hill, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, his body had severe wounds on his forehead that show that the victim was killed with a blunt object, such as a club. They believe the man was killed elsewhere and that his body was transported there to cover the tracks of a possible investigation.

The chief of the Rwingiri hill said that the body of the victim was transferred to the morgue of the regional hospital of Gitega, but that no suspect has been arrested.

- On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at the end of the day, around 6 p.m., children looking for firewood in a bush located on the hill of Nkoto, Taba zone, Tangara commune, in the province of Butanyerera, discovered a lifeless decapitated body of a young boy not yet identified.

According to eyewitnesses, the body of this young boy, aged between 15 and 17, showed traces of extreme violence. They believe that the child was killed elsewhere before his persecutors abandoned his body in the bush, as there were no traces of blood at the place where it was discovered.

The local administration has taken the decision to transfer the body to the morgue of the Nyarunazi health center pending burial.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation in order to identify the victim, determine the circumstances of his murder, identify the perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, June 24, 2026, during the day, the lifeless body of a young pregnant woman, identified as Francine Nduwayezu, 24 years old, was found in a room of a Guest House located in the Shatanya district of the commune and province of Gitega.

According to local sources, the victim was about seven months pregnant at the time of the crime. The exact circumstances of the death were not yet elucidated, although two employees of this establishment were arrested as part of an investigation and placed in custody at the provincial police station in Gitega.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of credible and thorough investigations in order to determine the circumstances and motives of these crimes, identify the perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

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

- On Saturday, June 20, 2026, at around 10 a.m., a retired soldier known as Jean-Claude Nduwimana was kidnapped by unidentified individuals while he was doing his sports activities in the city of Bujumbura.

According to sources from his family, Jean-Claude Nduwimana (see his photo below), is originally from the hill of Gitaba, commune of Rutana, in the province of Burunga, but currently resided in the district of Busoro, Kanyosha zone, commune of Mugere, in the province of Bujumbura. On the day of his abduction, he left his home after a phone call and informed his children that he was leaving for his sports activities, before returning home. But since that day, he has not returned and his phones are switched off.



According to members of his family, they searched for him everywhere in police and National Intelligence Service (SNR) dungeons, including in health facilities in the city of Bujumbura, but to no avail.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police and judicial authorities to immediately launch a credible, impartial and thorough investigation to find the traces of Jean-Claude Nduwimana, determine his fate and reveal the place of his detention.

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.