

REPORT NO. 553 OF SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 19 JULY 2026

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 July 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered in the province of Burunga.

The report also documents the case of one (1) individual who was abducted by police officers in Bujumbura Province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Sunday, July 12, 2026, at around 6:00 a.m., an as-yet-unidentified man, who was seriously injured, was discovered on the side of the road linking Mabanda to Mugina, on Bikobe Hill, in the Gitara zone, Nyanza Commune, Burunga Province.

According to eyewitnesses, the man was bleeding profusely from the nose and had bruises on his wrists, suggesting that he had been tied up before being severely beaten. Passers-by found him still alive but in critical condition. He succumbed to his injuries shortly afterward, before he could be evacuated to a health facility. His body was transferred to the morgue of Rusenyi Hospital, located in Nyanza Commune, for identification.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate, independent, impartial, and thorough investigation to establish the identity of the victim and the circumstances of his death, to identify the perpetrators, and to bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

- On the morning of Tuesday, July 14, 2026, the lifeless body of Yared Kabura, known in his community as an experienced bicycle repairman, was found tied to a cross on Mushasha Hill, in the Kayogoro zone of Makamba Commune, Burunga Province.

According to neighbors, the body of Yared Kabura, a 60-year-old resident of Kibingo Hill, in the Dunga zone of the same Makamba Commune, bore facial injuries, suggesting that his attackers had beaten him before killing him with blunt objects.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate, independent, impartial, and thorough investigation to establish the circumstances surrounding this murder, identify those responsible, and bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

2. Case of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Thursday, July 16, 2026, during the day, officers of the Burundi National Police (PNB) kidnapped a young man identified as Trésor Nibirantije at the exit of the Supreme Court of Burundi, located in the city of Bujumbura, at the end of a public hearing of the Administrative Chamber in a case opposing two factions of the CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party, before driving him to an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, Trésor Nibirantije, 25 years old and residing in the Bubanza district, in the Kinama zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, was arbitrarily arrested by police officers who accused him of wearing a CNL party T-shirt. Since this arbitrary arrest, which has been compared to a kidnapping, Trésor Nibirantije's relatives claim to have searched for him in all police dungeons, without success, and fear that he may be the victim of an enforced disappearance.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police authorities to communicate without delay the place of detention of Trésor Nibirantije as well as the reasons for his arrest.

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.