

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 551 PUBLISHED ON JULY 5, 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 27 June to 3 July 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, three (3) people were murdered in Bujumbura province.

The report also denounces the case of one (1) man who was kidnapped by the police in the province of Bujumbura.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Sunday, June 28, 2026, during the day, the lifeless body of a woman known as Sylvane Ndayarinze, aged about 70, was discovered in a field of oil palms on Mwanda hill, Muramba zone, Bubanza commune, in Bujumbura province.

According to family members, the victim's body had severe head and neck injuries and believe she was murdered with a club before having her throat slit with a machete while harvesting bunches of oil palm. At the time of the incident, she was in the company of her grandson and member of the Imbonerakure¹ youth league, 19-year-old Clovis Habimana, who was arrested by the police and detained at the Bubanza communal police station as part of an investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an impartial and thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of Sylvane Ndayarinze's murder, bring them to justice and punish them in accordance with the law.

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).

- On Wednesday, July 1, 2026, in the morning, the lifeless body of a man identified as Joseph Nyamibara, from Kanazi hill, Musigati zone, Bubanza commune, in Bujumbura province, was found in a water-filled ditch inside the Kivyuka market, a renovation site not yet completed.

According to neighbours' testimonies, Joseph Nyamibara had gone to the Kivyuka market the day before, but had not returned home. The circumstances of his death remain unknown. Local administrative sources indicate that no witness has been able to specify the conditions in which the victim died, or to identify the people with whom he would have spent the last hours before his death. The victim's body was transferred to the morgue of Bubanza Hospital pending burial.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police and judicial authorities to open an immediate investigation to determine the circumstances of Joseph Nyamibira's death, identify the possible perpetrators and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, July 2, 2026, on the night, around 11 p.m., a night watchman at the Mahwa Fundamental School (ECOFO) identified as Simon Niyondiko succumbed to his injuries while being transferred to Mpanda hospital after suffering a fatal machete attack perpetrated by a certain Jean Marie Nishimiyimana on Kanenga hill, Butanuka zone, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province.

According to eyewitnesses, Jean Marie Nishimiyimana (see his photo below) ambushed Simon Niyondiko on his way to his workplace at ECOFO Mahwa and struck him several times in the head with a machete before fleeing, leaving the victim in a very critical condition, to the point of giving up his ghost. The motive for this deadly attack remains a mystery, before the arrest of the alleged perpetrator of this assassination.



SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate and thorough investigation to search for and find Jean Marie Nishimiyimana so that he can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Saturday, July 5, 2026, at around 9 a.m., a man identified as Déogratias Ndayisaba, 37 years old, from and resident of the Gikungu quarter and zone, Ntakangwa commune, in the province of Bujumbura, was abducted by men in uniform of the Burundi National Police (PNB) at the Gare du Nord, near the branch of the Commercial Bank of Bujumbura, and took him aboard their vehicle, a white double-cab van with tinted windows, to an unknown destination.

According to eyewitnesses, Déogratias Ndayisaba was kidnapped just after he got off a motorcycle taxi that had been tailed, but tried to run before being caught by these policemen who also violently beat him before taking him into their vehicle.

Sos-Torture Burundi calls on the police and judicial authorities to immediately launch a credible, impartial and thorough investigation to find the traces of Déogratias Ndayisaba, 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.