

REPORT NO. 556 OF SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 9 AUGUST 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 1 to 8 August 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, five (5) people were murdered in the provinces of Burunga, Butanyerera and Gitega and four (4) others were seriously injured in grenade attacks in the provinces of Butanyerera and Gitega.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Monday, August 3, 2026, on the night, around 9:00 p.m., Blaise Riyazimana and his son, Noël Gakizakimana, were murdered in an attack at their family home, located on Nyagoba hill, in Karusi commune, Gitega province. The victim's wife, Aline Murekerisoni, and their two daughters, Jeanine Yihamashi and Bénigne Niyonkuru, were seriously injured and evacuated to the Kiranda health centre, before being transferred to the Natwe Turashoboye Cinquantenaire Hospital in Karusi for intensive care.

According to the survivors' testimony, unidentified individuals threw a grenade into the home while the whole family was gathered around dinner. No suspects have yet been arrested.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to open an independent, impartial and thorough investigation without delay in order to identify the perpetrators of this attack, to shed light on the circumstances of these crimes and to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, August 5, 2026, during the day, the lifeless body of Alexis Nduwimana, a 37-year-old father of three childrens, was discovered hanging inside his house, located on Gatongati hill, in Gishubi commune, Gitega province.

According to eyewitnesses, the body of Alexis Nduwimana, an agronomist assigned to the Kibuye zone, was found hanging with a rope attached to the frame of his house. Residents of Gatongati Hill believe that he was killed by as-yet-unidentified individuals, before his body was hanged to simulate suicide.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening, without delay, of an independent, credible, impartial and thorough investigation in order to identify the perpetrators of this crime, to shed light on the circumstances of his death and to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with the law.

- On Wednesday, August 5, 2026, on the night, a 67-year-old man, identified as Anicet Misago, was murdered in a grenade attack at his home, located on Mugongo hill, in the Kimeza zone, Busoni commune, Butanyerera province. His wife, who was seriously injured in the attack, was evacuated to Mukenke Regional Hospital for intensive care.

According to local sources, this attack is linked to suspicions of witchcraft based on land disputes.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police and judicial authorities to open an immediate, independent, impartial and thorough investigation in order to identify the perpetrators of this assassination, to shed light on the circumstances of this crime and to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, August 6, 2026, during the day, the lifeless body of Emmanuel Bukuru, 46, was discovered in a bush, on the Butezi hill of Musongati commune, in the province of Burunga, a few kilometers from the Burundian-Tanzanian border.

According to family members, Emmanuel Bukuru's body, which was in an advanced state of decomposition, had a rope around its neck. According to them, the individuals who murdered him wanted to simulate his suicide in order to cover the tracks and complicate subsequent investigations.

They claim that Emmanuel Bukuru had been missing since July 30, 2026, when he returned from Tanzania, where he worked to support his family.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to open an independent, impartial and thorough investigation without delay in order to identify the perpetrators of this assassination, to shed light on the circumstances of this crime and to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with the law.

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.