

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 557 PUBLISHED ON 16 AUGUST 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 8 to 15 August 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were abducted in Bujumbura province.

1. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in the afternoon, two traders, Jean Bosco Nshimirimana and Hermès Rukerandanga, were kidnapped while they were in their vehicle towards the city of Bujumbura, on the National Road No. 1 (RN1), near the Ntare Rushatsi Presidential Palace located on the hill of Gasenyi, in the commune of Mutimbuzi, in the province of Bujumbura.

According to members of their families, Jean Bosco Nshimirimana, from Rwanda, and Hermès Rukerandanga, from Tanzania, met in Kobero, on the border between Burundi and Tanzania, on the morning of Wednesday, August 12, 2026.

Jean Bosco used to travel to Rwanda as part of his business activities. He had left on Monday, August 10, 2026. For its part, Hermès was returning from Dar es Salaam, where it had gone to bring back vehicles for sale. It was then that he saw Jean Bosco Nshimirimana and asked him to make the journey together, in his vehicle, a blue Toyota Ractis with registration number G5753A.

One of Jean Bosco Nshimirimana's family members says they met in Gitega around 1 p.m. His phone stopped working in the vicinity of Mubimbi, in the direction of Bujumbura, while the last call made from Hermès Rukerandanga's phone informed a friend that they were approaching the Ntare Rushatsi Presidential Palace, before their phones were definitively switched off.

Since that day, the destination of Jean Bosco Nshimirimana and Hermès Rukerandanga, as well as that of their vehicle, remain unknown.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to open, without delay, an independent, credible, impartial and thorough investigation in order to find the disappeared persons, to shed light on the circumstances of their disappearance, to identify the perpetrators 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.