

**REPORT NO. 557 BY SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI PUBLISHED ON 23 AUGUST 2026**

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 15 to 22 August 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

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

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

- On Tuesday, August 18, 2026, during the night, the lifeless body of Raphaël Hakizimana, an agent of the Burundian Bureau of Standardization (BBN), was discovered lying on Avenue du Large, in the Kibenga district, in the city of Bujumbura.

According to members of his family, Raphaël Hakizimana, a resident of the Mgoboka district, in the north of Bujumbura, reportedly left his home that same night, without informing his family of his destination. His body was found a few hours later in Kibenga, with no apparent signs of violence. However, his family suspects that he may have been strangled by unidentified individuals, who then abandoned his body on Avenue du Large.

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

- On Tuesday, August 18, 2026, information received by SOS-Torture Burundi revealed that an activist of the MSD<sup>1</sup> party, Emile Nsavyimana, originally from Bumba Hill, in the former Ninga zone, Butaganzwa commune, in the former Kayanza province, died in the premises of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), more than

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<sup>1</sup> Movement for Solidarity and Democracy.

a year after his illegal and clandestine detention at the headquarters of this service under the Presidency of the Republic.

According to sources within the SNR, Emile Nsavyimana, accused of being a RED<sup>2</sup>-Tabara combatant, was arrested in December 2024 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by Congolese soldiers before being handed over to Burundian military intelligence (G2), and then transferred to the SNR. Since then, he has been placed in clandestine detention, without ever being brought to justice. Furthermore, his family was never officially informed by the intelligence services of his detention.

The same sources reveal that Emile Nsavyimana was reportedly taken to hospital on July 28, 2026, before being brought back to the SNR.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the General Administration of the SNR to put an end to the illegal, arbitrary, and prolonged detentions in the dungeons of this service, to explain the circumstances surrounding Emile Nsavyimana's death, and to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with the law.

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<sup>2</sup> Resistance for a Rule of 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.