

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 514 PUBLISHED ON 19 OCTOBER 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 October 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, four (4) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega, including two victims who died in a grenade attack that also left two (2) seriously injured in the province of Bujumbura.

The report also mentions the case of one (1) member of the CDP (Council of Patriots) party who was kidnapped while in a police cell in the province of Burunga.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Saturday, October 11, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a man identified as Gabriel Sinzumunsi was found hanging with a rope from the frame of his house located on the hill of Mungwa, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, the exact circumstances of his death remain unknown. Residents of Mungwa hill believe it could be a murder disguised as a suicide, suspecting that the victim was killed elsewhere before his body was brought back to his home to cover the tracks of a possible investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation to determine the circumstances of Gabriel Sinzumunsi's death, identify the perpetrators, bring them to justice and punish them in accordance with the law.

- On Monday, October 13, 2025, in the evening, around 7 p.m., a grenade attack claimed the lives of a man named Ismaël Havyarimana (72 years old) and his grandson, while his wife Eméliane Ndagijimana (60 years old), as well as another of their grandsons were seriously injured. The explosion occurred at the victims' home,

located on the Buringa sub-hill, Gasenyi hill, Buganda zone, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province.

According to family members, the victims were gathered in front of their house to enjoy the evening freshness together when a deafening bang sounded, plunging the neighborhood into panic. The head of the family died instantly, while his wife and two of their grandsons were seriously injured by shrapnel. The injured were rushed to a hospital in Bujumbura, but one of the children unfortunately succumbed to his injuries along the way.

Residents of Buringa believe that it was a premeditated crime claiming to have seen, two days before the attack, armed men dressed in coats, prowling around the victims' property. Local administrative authorities believe that a settling of scores related to a land dispute on a plot of land with relatives because Ismaël Habyarimana already escaped three assassination attempts before the fatal attack.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation to identify the perpetrators of this crime, so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

- On Tuesday, October 14, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of an 88-year-old woman, identified as Véronique Mundanikure, was found about 20 meters from her home located on the hill of Rushanga, commune of Bugendana, in the province of Gitega.

According to eyewitnesses, Véronique Mundanikure was savagely stabbed by individuals who have not yet been identified. The victim's body was buried the same day on the decision of the administrative authorities, after the observation of the judicial police officer (OPJ) in charge of the criminal case.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a thorough and thorough investigation in order to discover the perpetrators of the murder of Véronique Mundanikure and to punish them in accordance with the law.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Saturday, October 11, 2025, at around 5 a.m., policemen from the Kibago communal police station in Makamba commune in Burunga province kidnapped Bosco Ntakirutimana nicknamed Rubabwa from the dungeon of this police station and led him to an unknown destination.

According to members of his family, Bosco Ntakirutimana, originally from the hill and commune of Kigabo (in the former province of Makamba), is a former demobilized soldier of the Burundian Armed Forces (FAB) and leader of the CDP (Council of Patriots) party in charge of political mobilization and recruitment. He was arrested for the first time on Monday, October 6, 2025 by Imbonerakure who accused him of having made comments on the phone including the word "*Kirapanze*" ("things are in order"). These Imbonerakure then took him before the Kibago communal commissioner. Bosco Ntakirutimana explained that he was talking with his brother-in-law about a plot of land in Jimbi, where he had already found a customer who had even already paid a deposit.

Despite these explanations, Kibago policemen arrested him again on Friday, October 10, 2025 at the Jimbi market in Kibago. Some people present tried in vain to resist his arrest because he was suffering an injustice. These policemen finally took him to the dungeon of the Kibago police station, from where he was exfiltrated the next morning to an unknown destination. Members of his family went to the communal police station in Kibago to inquire about Bosco Ntakirutimana and were told that he had been transferred to the dungeon of the Makamba police station. They immediately went to this police station, including all the dungeons in Makamba, to look for him, but they were unable to find him.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police authorities in Makamba to reveal the fate of Bosco Ntakirutimana and the place of his detention as well as to release him immediately.

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.